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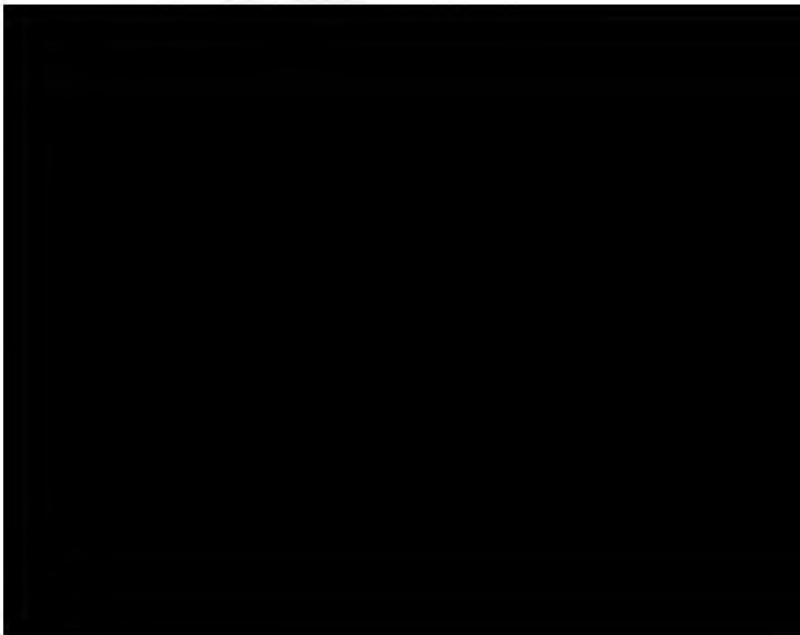
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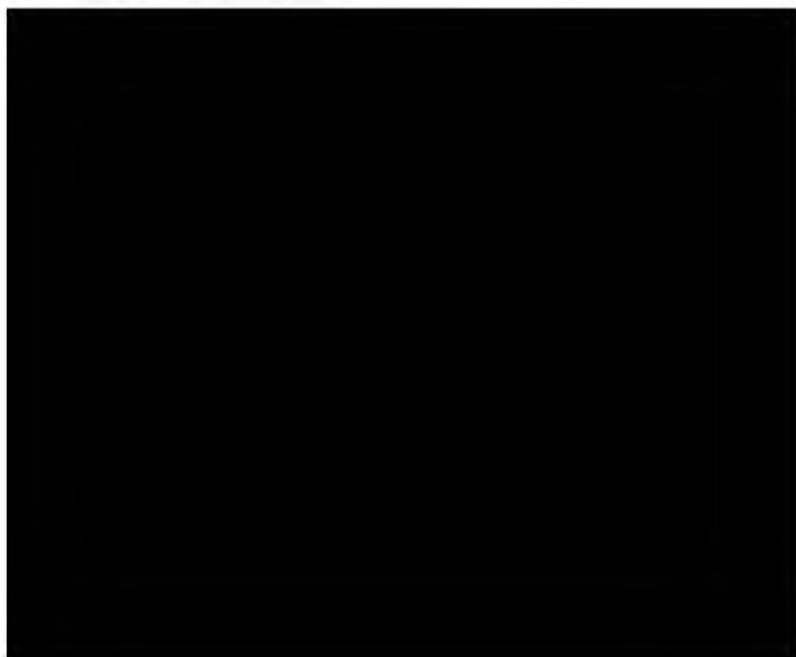
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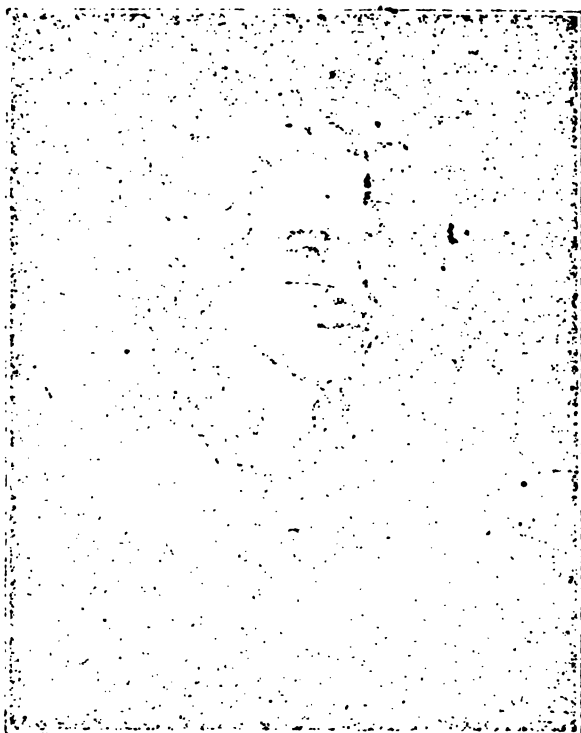












*John Hancock*

The above is a true and correct copy of the original  
and which is the original of the original



121  
JOHN HANCOCK,

*HIS BOOK*

BY

ABRAM ENGLISH BROWN

AUTHOR OF "HISTORY OF BEDFORD"

"GLIMPSES OF OLD NEW ENGLAND LIFE" "BENEATH OLD ROOFTREES"

"BESIDE OLD HEARTHSTONES" ETC.

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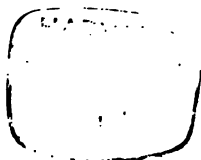


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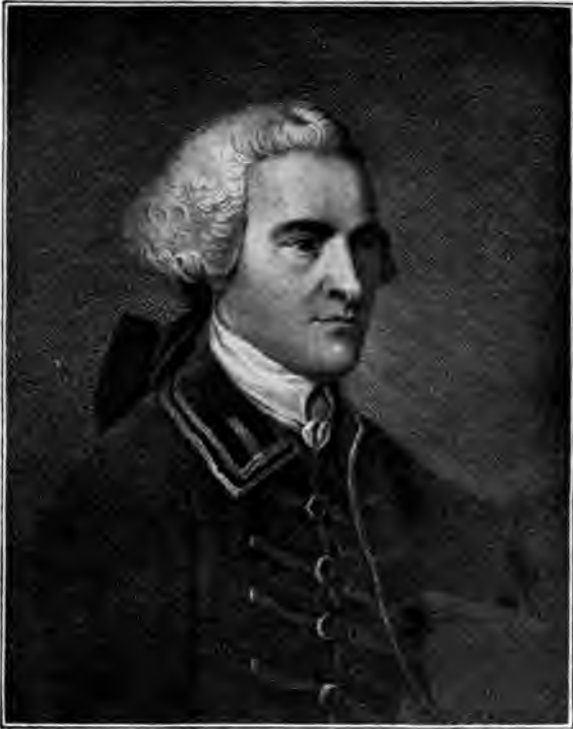
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*John Hancock*

"He wrote his name where all nations should behold it  
and where all time should not efface it."

JOHN HANCOCK

1780

1780

1780

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*Bright friend*

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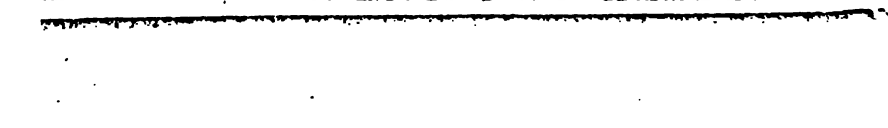
TO  
GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR

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*This Volume*

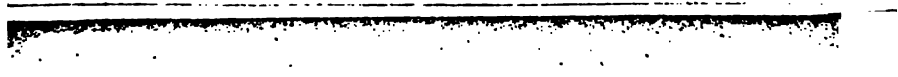
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engaged in the preparation of an article  
of the private life of John Hancock, my attention  
led to a volume of manuscript of possible u  
of study. *This vol. is now in the possession of*  
This led me to a thorough examination, requ  
weeks of the most studious labor, the resul  
was first given to the public through the colu  
*Boston Transcript*. The interest manifested  
led me to issue this volume in hope  
might create a demand for a life of John H.  
which may be given the public by other hands.  
Societies aiding in the preparation of this volu  
I received from John Ward Dean, A.M., lib  
of the New England Historic Genealogical S  
Muel Arthur Bent, clerk and treasurer of t  
Society; Mr. Harrison Gray Otis; the hist  
of the towns of Concord, Lexington, a  
and from Allen Coffin, Esq., of Nantuck  
Porter of Boston, Mrs. William Wales  
Mrs. Lydia Taft of Boston, owner of t  
Thomas Hancock and wife

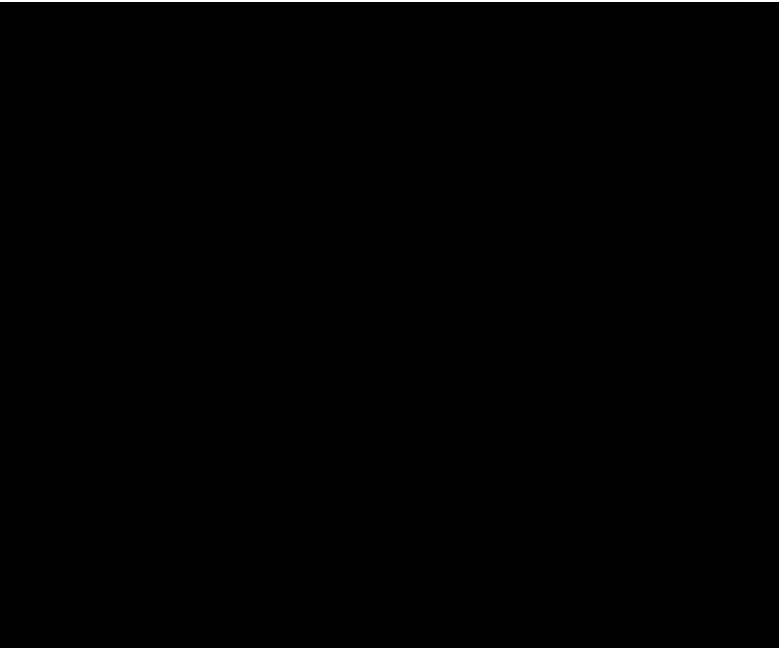




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*John Hancock, His Book*

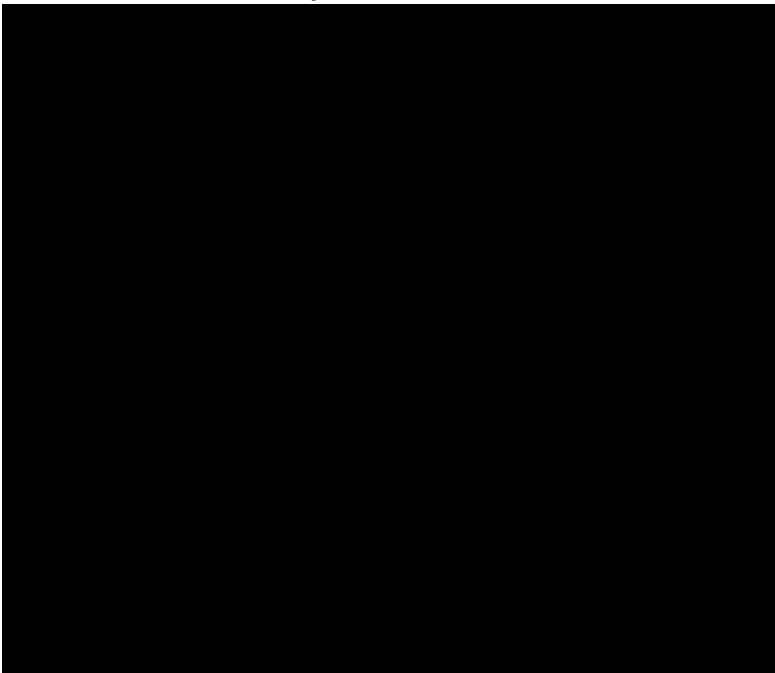
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY AND BIOGRAPHICAL

NEGLECT OF JOHN HANCOCK. FAMILY RECORD. ADOPTION  
OF THE BOY JOHN BY THOMAS HANCOCK. IN LATIN  
SCHOOL AND HARVARD COLLEGE. BOYHOOD VISITS TO  
LEXINGTON AND BEDFORD. SOJOURN IN ENGLAND.

“He who would study the career of Hancock must



We are thankful that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has so far repaired this neglect and paid her debt of gratitude as to erect the monument now to be seen at the tomb of her first governor in the Old Granary Burying-Ground, Boston; and it is hoped that some pen is now at work upon an adequate history of John Hancock which the public will welcome before many years.

It is not the purpose of this volume to supply the long-felt want, except in so far as the letters of the man may afford slight glimpses of it. Ruskin has said that "the true biography of a nation is written in the book of its deeds, the book of its art, and the book of its words." It is to the book of the deeds and words of John Hancock that I wish to direct my readers.

*M/* There is no better way in which to reach the real sentiments of a man than through his private correspondence. Speeches are for the public, and often are more truly the voice of the people than of the speaker; but in letters to trusted friends the man records his real self. It is my purpose to allow the letters of John Hancock to speak for him, introducing only such familiar facts of history as are needful to make clear the long-hidden utterances of the man. These letters cover that period of our history which Rufus Choate said was the most significant, but most neglected decade, — that from the revenue acts to open hostilities. But before brushing away the dust of a full century from this worm-eaten volume of manuscript, let me pause to introduce my friend to the rising generation. I say "my friend" because I rate in my circle of friends all whose labors have conspired to give to me this glorious heritage of freedom.

He was the third in as many generations of the fam-

ily to bear the name, John Hancock, in the history of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. The first, his grandfather, was Rev. John Hancock, pastor at Lexington for many years. He was often called Bishop Hancock because of his wide field of great usefulness. His residence, the old parsonage, is now eagerly visited at Lexington by tourists, who seek for the place of entertainment of the patriot John Hancock on the eventful night of April 18, 1775. The second generation was Rev. John Hancock of Braintree (Quincy); he was pastor there from 1726 till his death in 1744. He, as pastor and parent, placed the outward seal of baptism upon the third John in



years was kept in touch with his mother, his brother Ebenezer, and his sister Mary; but he was the lad who most cheered the hearts of the merchant and his companion, who was the daughter of a like noted merchant of the town of Boston.

Dressed in the best that the town afforded for boys of his age, John Hancock was tenderly guarded by his uncle and aunt. He



MRS. JOHN HANCOCK, GRANDMOTHER  
OF THE PATRIOT.

(Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Thomas and Mary  
Clark of Chelmsford.)

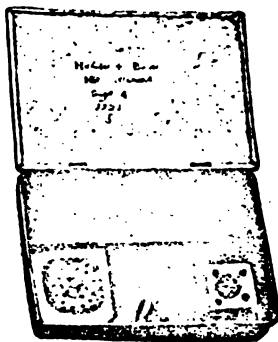
was early found in the Latin School during the sessions, and was taken in the Hancock chariot to Lexington for the benefits of country air during the vacations. When restless at that parsonage he was driven to the Bedford parsonage, but a few miles away, where he was the envied of his little cousins, who made merry the

hours of his visit. This attractive boy was given the best that the parsonage afforded, and was allowed to dip his quill in his uncle's "*inkstand dish*" while displaying his youthful ability in penmanship.

The best candlestick was used in his honor, and all attention given the boy, as a representative of Thomas<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Bowes, nephew and namesake of Thomas Hancock, cousin of John, died in youth at Bedford.

Hancock, whose wealth and influence were often helpfully displayed at this minister's home in a new and struggling settlement. <sup>o</sup> One of the Bedford minister's children was Lucy, the namesake of her mother, — Lucy, daughter of Rev. John Hancock of Lexington. This daughter of Rev. Nicholas Bowes and Lucy Hancock was often found taking steps for her grandparents at Lexington, and with young John from Boston romped hand in hand over the hills of Lexington, peered with curious eyes into the old belfry, or made mud pies at its rude base. Yes, my reader, John Hancock was a boy, and had wants like other boys of his time. No one can doubt that they were all sup-



INKSTAND DISH.

elegant dress, courteous manner, and prospective fortune made him the envied of the best circles of the seaport, but this did not turn his well-poised head, and he entered his uncle's business house in the position of clerk. Manifesting a deep interest in the business, he was intrusted with its affairs, and in 1760 was sent abroad to represent the house in London. He took the trip under the patronage of Mr. Thomas Pownall, who had been governor of the province, and, as a friend of Thomas Hancock, had been a frequent guest at his home, and manifested much interest in the young man of the household. John Hancock's visit chanced to be at the time of the death of George II. and of the coronation of George III., pageants not un- congenial to the taste of the young man. It is recorded that the Boston merchant was later presented to the new king as a representative of one of his Majesty's colonies in America, and that King George presented the young man with a gold snuff-box. I shall not vouch for the truth of this statement; but custom made such articles of daily use in the ordinary exchange of courtesy. If the king, in the exuberance of his exalted position, did lavish this token upon his young American subject, he had occasion to regret it in later years; and doubtless John Hancock failed to pass it about with pride among his business or social friends, for "rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind."

The following letter, "billet," is in the possession of Mrs. William Wales of Dorchester, a grandniece of Mrs. Dorothy Hancock. It is without date, but must have preceded the death of the grandmother, which occurred in February, 1760, and is the earliest known to exist:

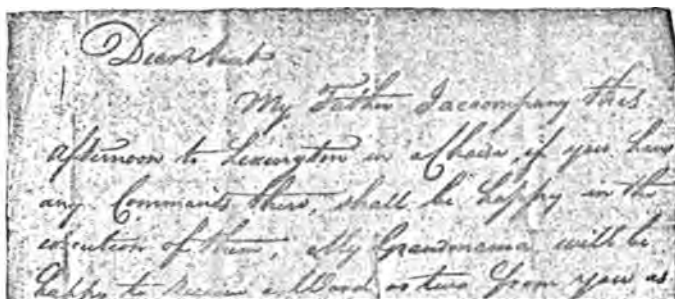
DEAR AUNT: My Father I accompany this afternoon to Lexington in a chaise, if you have any Commands there, shall be happy in the execution of them. My Grandnema will be happy to receive a Word or two from you as will your Nephew in committing to Memory what shall proceed from an amiable & beloved aunt, and as the original will not be present the proxy must answer as a feeble representative.

Respectfully

J. HANCOCK.

Saturday, 12 o'clock A.M.

*Superscribed* "Madam Hancock."



Dear Aunt  
My Father I accompany this  
afternoon to Lexington in a chaise, if you have  
any Commands there, shall be happy in the  
execution of them, My Grandnema will be  
happy to receive a Word or two from you as

## CHAPTER II

THE FAMOUS AUTOGRAPH. HANCOCK WHARF. JOHN WENDELL A FELLOW-MERCHANT. THE BOWES FAMILY AT BEDFORD AND BOSTON.

ON the fly-leaf of his letter-book is read the well-known autograph.



It lacks some of the steadiness and regularity of curve of that on the Declaration of Independence. Yet this and others in the letter-book are more nearly like the average signature of the business man. The above is in the possessive case; and the volume is in the main the record of the business transactions of John Hancock, although the early entries are those of Thomas Hancock. They introduce the reader to the business house when John Hancock was one of a large number of young men who did the clerical work of this famous house.

Hancock was a general importer, but his exports were necessarily confined to the products of the whale fisheries. "The wholesale department of the business was conducted at the warehouses on Hancock's wharf, which formerly opened into Fish, now North Street. Lewis



Wharf represents it in part. Hancock was the owner of, or had a large interest in, several retail stores; and the variety of goods on sale placed him at the head of the business interests of the Province.  $\phi$

We are at first introduced, under date of Oct. 14, 1762, to Matthew Woodford, Esq., apparently an agent with whom Thomas Hancock has treated in regard to supplies furnished a garrison stationed at Annapolis and Chignecto, Nova Scotia.  $\times$  John Wendell is associated with him.  $\times$  Wendell was another Boston merchant of the time. He was a neighbor of Thomas Hancock, living on the corner of Court and Tremont Streets (says Drake).  $\times$

On Oct. 17, 1762, we have a glimpse into the Hancock mansion on Beacon Hill, where the young man, John Hancock, just home from his sojourn abroad, is a most important member of his uncle's family.

DEAR SIR: At my Return from Church, I found on the Table the

example was well followed in this particular by his nephew.

The next group of letters affords some intimation of the commercial relations of Boston merchants during the last French war, and of the difficulty in adjusting accounts.

BOSTON, *Novembr* 5th, 1762.

GENT<sup>r</sup>: I Recd your favour of July 31<sup>st</sup>, observe Mr. Atkins's Bill on Trafford & Elms is Refused & Noted; however am of Opinion it will be paid, as Newfoundland is happily fallen again into our Hands. As I have no Power of Attorney from Kilby, Barnard & Parker, to whom Mr. Laughton was Indebted, so could have no Demand in Law, therefore have Deliver'd that acco<sup>t</sup> to Mr. Parker, your Partner, my Power is from Kilby & Barnard only.

In Regard to Sewall & Lewis, I have good Security, but as I wrote, they can't pay yet, & it would not be prudent to sue, as it must break them up as things are at present. R

The Tea is Arriv'd. I hope to hear from you soon and am  
Gent<sup>a</sup>, Your most Obed't Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

P.S. Inclosed is a Certificate from the Custom House of landing the Tea, by Loring.

X MESS<sup>rs</sup>. JONA<sup>s</sup>. BARNARD & CO.

BOSTON, *Novembr* 30th, 1762.

GENT<sup>r</sup>: I herewith Inclose Invoice for sundry Goods, which I Desire you to Ship on my Acco<sup>t</sup> by the first good Opportunity, in the Spring & Insure, them. You will take particular Care, that the Goods are well Chosen, Pack'd & Charg'd at the lowest Prizes.

Inclosed you have also William Thomas's Bills on Mr. William Bivall Dartmouth £175, & Thomas Williams's Bills on John Humfrey, Esqr. for £20. When paid Credit my account. A

I am with Great Esteem

Gent<sup>a</sup>,

Your most Obed't Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

P.S. Hope soon to hear the Fate of my Bill Transmitted by the Mast Fleet.

Capt. Atkins's Bill for £688 6s 6d sterl'g, notwithstanding. I wrote to send it back protested, if this Comes in Time protest it,

*BOSTON MERCHANTS*

11

take 10 p. ct. Damages & Interest till paid. I hear, & there will  
be no Doubt of its being paid, if not done already. <sup>R</sup>

JONA. BARNARD & CO.

BOSTON, Decemr 24, 1762.

GENT<sup>rs</sup>: Since the foregoing I Recd Via Halifax your favour  
of 31<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> with the Papers, referring to Mr. Cummings which I  
shall see Executed, as soon as may be. I Desire you to protest his  
Bill & keep it, that I may Draw the Interest & 10 pr. ct. Damages. <sup>R</sup>  
The Papers shall be forwarded you, as soon as Authenticated.

Capt. Robert Stockton, in the Ship Hopewell, is a Transport  
still in the Service, and if the Bill be not paid, protest it, & beg you  
will apply to the Navy Board, & stop the money, as I don't ever  
Expect to see him again, and I know there is or was, when here a  
large sum due for him of s<sup>d</sup> ship. I thank your honouring Sword &  
Bell's Bill with Hill & Lamars, for the Wine. Hope there will be  
no Peace till the Parliamt Setts.

I am Gent<sup>rs</sup>,

Your most Obedt Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

<sup>R</sup> P.S. I sent you all the Pott ash I had made. If it will answer,  
I shall go into the manufacture. <sup>X</sup>

JONA. BARNARD & CO.

BOSTON, Decemr 24, 1762.

BOSTON 2<sup>d</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1762.

GENT<sup>m</sup>: Since I put my Letters into this Ships Bag, I have Drawn the Inclosed Bill. Say, Wendell & Hancock on William Beth Esq. in Amsterdam value £110, sterg. When paid Credit my acco<sup>t</sup>. therefore; please to forward the Inclos'd Letter to him.

I am with Respect, Gent<sup>m</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.

To MESSRS. JONA. BARNARD & CO.



HANCOCK MANSION, BOSTON.

BOSTON, Decem<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1762.

SIR: We have wrote you severall Letters in the Course of the Summer, some of which we are certain arriv'd safe. We then Inclos'd you all the necessary Papers &c., relative to the ship William Galley, and are not a little surpris'd that we have not heard from you, owning the Receipt of Wendell's affidavit etc., but hope we shall soon. We have Taken all proper measures for your Interest, in consequence of which several necessary charges have arisen, in part of which we have this Day drawn a Sett of Bills on you, in favour of Messrs. Jona<sup>s</sup>. Barnard & Co., Merchants in London for

£10, Sterling, which you will please to honour. Account of which shall be Transmitted you hereafter.

We are Sir,  
Your most Humble Servts,

JOHN WENDELL  
THOMAS HANCOCK.

To WILLIAM BETH ESQ. in Amsterdam.

BOSTON, Decemr 28<sup>th</sup> 1762

GENT<sup>l</sup>: I have not yet Rec'd the Goods I wrote you for, hope they will soon arrive. This is chiefly to cover you the In-clos'd Letter from Mr. Will<sup>m</sup> Bowes,<sup>1</sup> who is a Nephew of mine & who has some time Dealt in hardware & inclined to correspond with your house. He now writes you for some Goods. You are safe in Dealing with him, & I am to Desire you will supply him & for what he now writes I will see you paid.

I am Gent<sup>l</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

MESSRS. DEVONSHIRE & REEVES.

R

<sup>1</sup> William Bowes above mentioned was the eldest son of Rev. Nicholas Bowes and his wife, Lucy Hancock, of Bedford. He was born Dec. 3, 1734, and baptized four days later by his grandfather, Rev. John Hancock

## CHAPTER III

JOHN HANCOCK ENTERS THE FIRM. GARRISON SUPPLIES.  
DEATH OF JOHN WENDELL. SIR PETER AND LADY WARREN.  
TORY ROW.

P IN the following letters we have the first announcement of the co-partnership of Thomas and John Hancock.

Gent<sup>l</sup>,

Boston January 1<sup>st</sup> 1763

I am to acquaint you, that I have at last Got my Affairs into such a Situation, as that I have this Day Taken my Nephew Mr. John Hancock, into Partnership, with me, having had long Experience of his Uprightness, & great Abilities for Business, so that I can heartily recommend him to your Friendship, & Correspondence, which wish may be long & happy. You will therefore please my private Request, to be pleased if the Challenge that may happen, whether I be carried to the Company's Account, and what Goods I have wrote for, be charged, to Thomas Hancock, & Company, Mark'd T. J. H., & consign'd to Thomas Hancock, & Company. You will please to pay the Bills of Summing, & keep it, that we may have the Interest, & Damages, the further you will be provided, and I wish you the Compliments of the Season, & am with much Respect

To Mr. John Bernard & Co.

Gent<sup>l</sup>  
Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>,

BOSTON, January 1st, 1763.

GENT<sup>l</sup> : I am to acquaint you, that I have at last Got my affairs into such a Scituation, as that I have this Day Taken my Nephew Mr. John Hancock, into Partnership with me, having had long Ex-

perience of his Uprightness, & great Abilities for Business, as that I can heartily Recommend him to Your Friendship & Correspondence, which wish may be long & happy. You will therefore Cause my private Account to be Settled & the Ballance that may happen on either Side Carried to the Company Account and what Goods I have wrote for, be Charged to Thomas Hancock & Company, mark'd T. I. & H. & Consign'd to Thomas Hancock & Company.

You will please to protest the Bill of Cumming's & keep it, that we may Draw the Interest, & Damages, the proper Papers will be forwarded soon.

I wish You the Compliments of the Season, & am with much Respect,

Gent<sup>l</sup>,

Your most Obed't Serv't.

To MESSRS. JONAS BARNARD & Co. *p*

\* On Jan. <sup>[1763]</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> the Hancocks address Matthew Woodford, Esq. :—

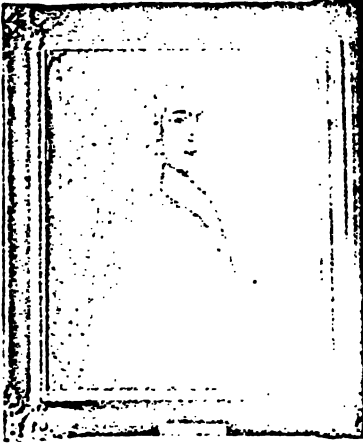
Mr. Winslow writes me the Provisions shipt to Chignecto arrived safe there, and is what will last him till mid summer & that the Bread from Annapolis proves much better than Expected, that with the Help of the French, will find no difficulty in Issuing it. I am very glad to hear this. I hope also it will Turn out better at

The garrisons being supplied by the Hancock firm were on the Bay of Fundy; Annapolis being on the western coast of Nova Scotia, and Chignecto was at the

isthmus between the bay and Northumberland Strait. The

business seems not to run very smoothly, as may be inferred

from a letter to Matthew Woodford on Feb. 10, 1763:<sup>1</sup> — p



THOMAS HANCOCK  
(By Blackburn.)

I have just Rec'd Your favour, of 8<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last, & Duplicate of 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. by the Pacquet, and Observe their Contents, & Remarks you have made, on the State of Provisions, & Cash Acco<sup>ts</sup> &c. I shall take the matters under consideration, Send

Abstracts from your Letter to Mr. Gerrish, and do everything in my Power to Secure your Interest, but the strange Confusion the Provisions were in, & Deaths of Commissarys, one after another, made things so Intricate that I much fear, whether ever things can be made Clearer, than what I have done, and you must settle with the Government, in best manner you can, with what I have sent you, the often change also of Commanding Officers at Annapolis, & Chignecto & many dead since. Two killed at Newfoundland makes things worse & more difficult than otherwise would have been, as for Deschamps we can have no Redress. I Drove that matter, as far as it would bear. We have a very hard Winter & no Commu-

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Edward G. Porter, in a recent examination of the files of papers at the Province House, Halifax, N.S., found abundant evidence of the business relations between Thomas Hancock and the government. He furnished vessels and food supplies.



*JOHN HANCOCK ENTERS THE FIRM* 17

nication at present, with Annapolis or Chignecto, all froze up & no Navigation can Stir to or from thence.

I thank You for paying my Bill. I am now Considerably in Advance for I sent Provisions to Annapolis &c. as you will have seen by Letters I have wrote you the months past, & more I must Purchase soon, but hope the Peace will make them more Plenty & Cheaper; I congratulate You upon it, and think it a good Peace.

I have taken my Nephew, Mr. John Hancock into Partnership with me, and you will please in future to Direct to Thomas Hancock Esqr. & Company.

We are Sir,

Your most Obedt Humble Servts. *P X*

MATTHEW WOODFORD Esqr.

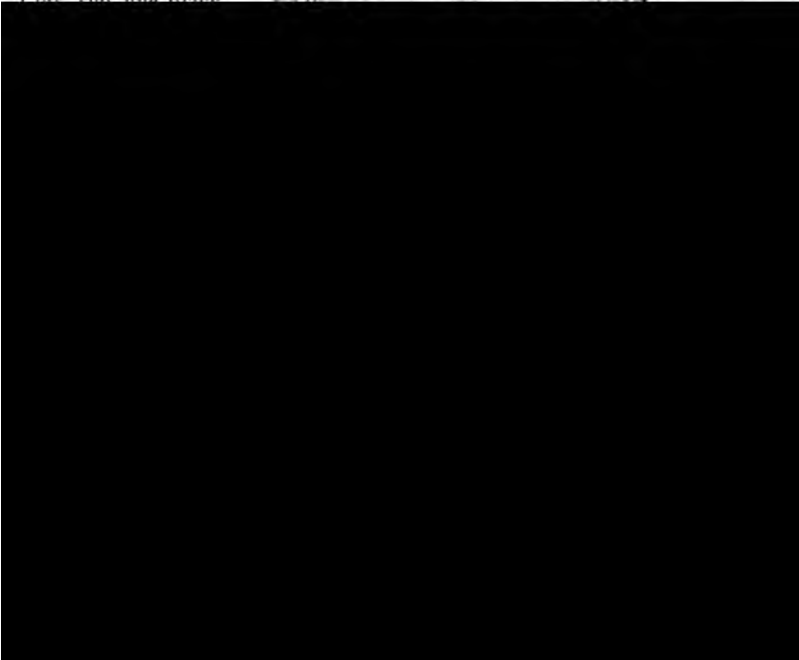
On Feb. 22 they write to Messrs. Jonathan Barnard & Co. for the following:—

2 prs. sup. fine Black  
Broad Cloth 7-4rs. d.

2 prs. good Black. @

15.

1 prs. sup. fine Black



the same disease that made life a burden to his nephew when engrossed with the cares of an extensive business as well as the responsibilities of an experimental government.

BOSTON, *March 18th, 1763.*

SIR: This serves to acquaint you of the Death of John Wendell, Esqr your attorney in the affairs of the Ship, William Galley. Our last Letters Acquainted you the Particulars of that affair, and I am very Sorry to find that there is no Prospect of having Justice done to the Concerned in this Country.

I must Desire that you will be pleased to Impower some other Gentleman to Receive the Papers & Settle the Acco<sup>t</sup> of Expences, which we have been at, and to Carry on the Suit. I am Sorry to Say, that my Health will not permit me to Attend that Business, having been Confined these three months with the Gout, & don't Expect to be able to attend to very little Business again, if any.

I am Sir,

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> & most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

WILLIAM BETH ESQR.

Via New York. By Davis to Amsterdam.

On the same date Mr. Thomas Hancock writes the following to Lady Warren:—

MADAM: The Letters you sent me in Your Last to the Gentleman, Indebted to the Estate of Sir Peter Warren, were Delivered, and I am Sorry to Say have had no manner of Effect. I have been constantly applying, and have not Rec'd a Farthing from either of them since, and I am to Desire Your Ladyship to Send proper Powers of Attorney to some Gent<sup>n</sup> here to take upon them the Trust of Collecting in the Remainder of the Debts due to said Estate, that my Health will not permit me to go through that Business.

I have now been Confined above three months to my House, with a Nervous Disorder & the Gout, that I am not able to Give that Attention to Your affairs, which they absolutely Require. I beg therefore that Powers may be Sent over immediately to Receive of me the Books & Mortgages which remain unpaid, and settle with me for the Money I have Rec'd & Remitted You; in the mean time, I shall be doing everything in my Power to Secure your Interest.

Mrs. Hancock joins me in our Respectfull Complim'ts to Your Ladyship, and I am Madam

Your Most Obedt Humble Servt.

P.S. I have Rec'd. no answer to my Letters, respecting the Demand made on me, for Sir Peter's Subscription to the Church at Cambridge, with a Letter from Mr. Inman.

LADY WARREN.

The above postscript has reference to Christ Church, the first rector of which was Rev. East Apthorp, who



communication with foreign countries were the clumsy sailing-vessel of the time; and several months were required to get an order filled in England for a few casks of common nails or a few domestic supplies, such as are ordered for Mrs. Hancock in March, 1763, viz., "One dozen bottles of very best double distilled lavender water;" or for the house in June, viz., "Seventy-six casks of nails. Let them be made of good stuff and drawn and full size, the cask of the same make with the London cask, not flat hoops."

CHAPTER IV

FAMILY SUPPLIES. THE BOSTON PACKET. JAMES SCOTT FIRST APPEARS. SHIP COAL FROM NEWCASTLE. SETTling GENERAL WHITMORE'S ESTATE. THOMAS HANCOCK FAILS IN HEALTH. GARRISON SUPPLIES. PROVINCE TREASURY AS A BANK.

ON March 20, 1763, the Hancocks send an order to London for family supplies, and give some positive business directions:—

We wish the favr You will send one doz. Bottles of very best double distill'd Lavender water, for Mrs. Hancock, & please to let it be well Cork'd & Tied over with Bladder, & charge our acco<sup>tt</sup>. The Bottles our L. H. Brought, were so badly Cork'd that they were

the Different Posts for your 500 men, in part, and are now Sending more to last up to 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. next, and as this is the time of year to lay in Provisions, we are Purchasing every thing at the Cheapest Rates, and you may Rely every step shall be Taken to Advance y<sup>r</sup> Interest. As soon as the whole supplies are gone, we shall Transmit you the acco<sup>t</sup> of our Advances, now Considerably in Advance. We have Drawn on You by this oppor<sup>y</sup> for £1000, sterl<sup>g</sup> in fav<sup>r</sup> of Jon<sup>a</sup> Barnard & Co. in part, which you will please to honour. We shall shortly Transmit a partic<sup>l</sup>ar acco<sup>t</sup>, & then Draw for the Remaining Ballance.

We Congratulate you on the Conclusion of a Peace, & hope we shall soon be able to take your Contract on a footing that will be satisfactory on all sides, be assured no one shall more Consult your Interest in all Respects & better carry on your Contract than —

Sir, Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>—

To MATTHEW WOODFORD, ESQR.



LONGFELLOW HOUSE.

(One of the Houses of Tory Row. Built about 1759, by Colonel John Vassall.)

In a letter to their London agents, the Hancock firm write under date of May 6, 1763:—

We duly note what Mr. G. H. mentions Respecting our Concerns with You in a Vessell solely for the London Trade, which think will answer, & as soon as can see Mr. Folger, shall Determine; & if agreeable, shall then set up one that will be most suitable; of which more in our next. ]

We shall by next oppor'y Transmit our whole acco<sup>t</sup> to Mr. Woodford & Remit you a Bill on him.

We are with Esteem Gent<sup>a</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>.

On the following date they write:—

X We Desire you will please to ship us by very first oppor'y Fifteen or Twenty Tons of best Petersburgh Brack Hemp. This we want for whale Warps & must be of the very best quality. The last you sent was good, & desire you will keep up to the like goodness, which charge to our acco<sup>t</sup>.

We are in great haste

Gent<sup>a</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>.

MESSRS. JON<sup>a</sup>. BARNARD & Co.

X

⌈ We hope soon to hear from You & having not to add, we remain  
with Esteem Gent<sup>n</sup> Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>ts</sup>.

⌈ Should the Devonshire, Capt. Hunter not be arriv'd when this  
comes to hand, we desire You will make Insurance to the full on  
Ten hog<sup>s</sup> Pott ash we ship You by him. ]

× BOSTON, June 14, 1763.

⌘ GENT<sup>n</sup>: We have none of Your fav<sup>rs</sup> unanswered. The Glass  
not yet Arriv'd. This is the Desire you will by first opp'y, Ship  
us the few things mention'd at Bottom hereof — & beg your care  
that the nails be well Drawn, the last you sent were extreme Bad,  
that we met with Difficulty in the sale of them, for their am<sup>o</sup> we  
shall order you payment in Time.

We are with Esteem —

Gent<sup>n</sup> Your most obed. serv<sup>ts</sup>.

⌘ Please to Send

10 ps. Red narrow Bristol Bays

5 “ Blue Do

20 pr. German Serge, half Blue not dy'd in the cloth & half good  
cloth coll<sup>rs</sup>

30 cask 10<sup>d</sup> Nails

20 Do 8<sup>d</sup> Do

6 Do 6<sup>d</sup> Do

10 Do. 4<sup>d</sup> Do.

10 Do. 20<sup>d</sup> Do.)

Let them be made of Good stuff well  
Drawn & full size, the Cask of the same  
make with the London Cask, not flat Hoops.

MESSRS. DEVONSHIRE & REEVE. ⌘

On the same date, to London agents, they write: —

We are using all Expedition in Building the Ship, as many hands  
as can work on her are Employ'd & shall be carefull to have her well  
finished — We think we shall soon ship some oil in thirds with You  
& Folger. Folger Returns home this day & if the Price breaks as  
he Expects he will then make a purchase —

We shall soon write you again.

We Remain with Esteem

Your most hble serv<sup>ts</sup>.

○ Under date of June 27, 1763, the Hancock firm men-  
tions, for the first time, the man, James Scott, who plays  
a most prominent part in the business and domestic



affairs of the Hancock family for the next half century. <sup>o</sup>  
They also say:—

The Hemp, Duck & Anchor for the new ship you did not send by Jarvis as you Designed. We are going on fast with the Ship. We observe what Mr. J. H. mentioned Respecting the person Mr. Cahill Recommended for Mastr, at present are of opinion Mr. Folger will Command her. Should he alter his mind the preference will be given to this Mr. Scott.

We are much hurried at present, that we can't add, save that we are with Esteem Gent'n,

Your most obedt Humble Servts.

MESRS. JONATHAN BARNARD & CO.

X In these days, when coal is so abundantly supplied at our doors that the owners of forests of wood can hardly afford to have it prepared for fuel, we scarcely realize that sailing-vessels brought coal from England, and that our American mountains were then filled to bursting with inexhaustible stores of it. With what envious eyes many of the poor, dependent upon the countrymen who hauled their fuel on ox-teams to Boston, must have looked into the homes of the Hancocks, Faneuils, Henchmans, and others, where the family gathered about the grate, flaming with English coals, procured as indicated in this letter: X



BOSTON, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1763.

X SIR: This day we Rec'd your favour of 14th of April last, advising you are Sending the Ship Mary, John Honnog, master to our address, with a Load of Coals. X The Ship does not yet appear, but when she arrives, we shall Dispose of the Coals most to your Advantage; it's unlucky there is a great Quantity of Coals in Towne, fear

they will not sell Immediately, in that case must be obliged to Store them, in order to Discharge the Ship, according to Charter, which you may Depend we shall at the smallest Expense possible, and do everything in our power to Serve Your Interest. We are Sir,

Your most ob'nt, Humble Serv'ts.

To BENJ'N BIRKBECK, ESQ'R. at the New Castle Coffee House, St. Mary's Hill, London.

After the sale of the freight, the following was written: —

BOSTON, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1763.

SIR: We wrote you first Inst. of the arrival of Capt. Honnog & that the Coals were sold. We now Inclose You Acco<sup>tt</sup> of sales, with Capt. Honnogs Rec<sup>t</sup> for £200 Sterl'g<sup>7</sup> paid him, & our Bill on Messr. Jona. Barnard & Co. for the Ballance due to you being £22. 0. 3. We have charged no Commission on Cash paid or the Remittance, are Sorry the Coals fetch no better price, but we did the best we could — & as for ourselves there was no Prospect of Coals Rising.<sup>x</sup> The Town well supplied & the Charge of Storing very high and might have staid unsold 12 mo. That we think we acted upon ye whole most for yr. Interest, in Disposing of them at the first good offer, and are persuaded no Coals will be better sold this Season. <

The Ship was Dispatched in the Ten days agreeable to Charter party, & Capt. Honnog sail'd for Carolina 21<sup>st</sup>. Inst.

We Tender you any further Services in our Power, & you may Rely none shall more study your Interest in all Respects than Sir,

Your most humble Serv'ts.

To MR. BENJ'N BIRKBECK, at the New Castle Coffee House, St. Mary's Hill, London. x

On Aug. 2, 1763, in writing to their London agents the Hancocks say: —

Messrs. Folger & Gardiner applied to us to be concerned with you & them  $\frac{1}{2}$  in Oyle to be shipt to you, which we complied with & by this opp'y Capt Jarvis, we have shipt about 30 Tons. Invoice & % you will have in the Comp<sup>a</sup> Letter. We have Shipt about 45 Tons on board Jacobson, who will sail in a few days. <

We Desire you will please to pay Major General Bastide £12. 5. 3

SETTLING GENERAL WHITMORE'S ESTATE 27

sterg. & charge our acco<sup>t</sup> being a Ball<sup>a</sup> due from T. H. to Major Patrick Mackellar & p<sup>d</sup> him by his order, & forward his Rect.

By Jacobson we shall ship Two Trunks, & some cash for Capt. Edward Whittemore & when they arrive we pray your care of them & when he applies to Deliver them to him, we shall also forwar<sup>d</sup> you a Discharge for him with the other Heirs of the late Gen<sup>l</sup> Whittemore to sign.

We have not to add save we are with Esteem

Gent<sup>l</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> humble Serv<sup>ts</sup>

MESSRS. JON<sup>a</sup> BARNARD & CO.

The three following letters afford a few hints in regard to the manner of settling estates of deceased men, and to the last French war, and also of the physical condition of the senior member of the Hancock firm.

On July 4, 1763, in a letter to Capt. Edward Whitmore, who represents several heirs, Thomas Hancock says:—

Jona Barnard & Co., who will Deliver them to you on their arriv: these Guineas are the same I Recd. among Genl. Whitmore's mone are very short of weight, & to pass them here would be a Gre Loss, as they must weigh here 5 dwt. 9 gr. & the Reason I did n send them before was the Insurance, very high, on accott of t war. I give you this Advice that you may Insure if you think fi I shall write you more particularly by Capt. Jacobson, and am

Sir

Your most Obedt<sup>t</sup> Humble Servt.

CAPT. EDWARD WHITMORE.

x<sup>o</sup> BOSTON, Aug<sup>t</sup> 2, 1763.

x<sup>o</sup> DEAR SIR: I Rec'd your fav<sup>r</sup> April 1<sup>st</sup> from Bath, Inclosing Letter for Mr. Bastide, I herewith Return, as he Sail'd from hen to London, in Capt. Farr, some Time since. I hope the Bath w be of Service to you, of which shall be Glad to hear.

I now write to our Friend Barnard & Co. to pay you for Acc<sup>ts</sup> Majr Mackellar £12. 5. 3. Sterlg. Balla. due him from me, wh you have Rec'd it, please to Acquaint him of it with my Comp<sup>ts</sup>.

o The first of March last I Renewed your note for £300 & add the Interest to that Time £13, and Took a new note for £313, must have Rec'd the Principal money out of the Treasury, the 2t June last, this new note is payable 20<sup>th</sup> June 1766. o

I am very weak & cannot get well, my Legs & Feet swell mu & I am Incapable of Doing hardly any Business, the Rest of t Family are pretty well.

Mrs. Hancock joins me in our most Respectfull Compts to y & your Lady, Mrs. Bastide & the Young Ladies.

o I am very sincerely, Dear Sir,

Your most Obedt<sup>t</sup> & most Humble Servt.

Dr. Cooper<sup>1</sup> & Mrs. Hancock send their comps.

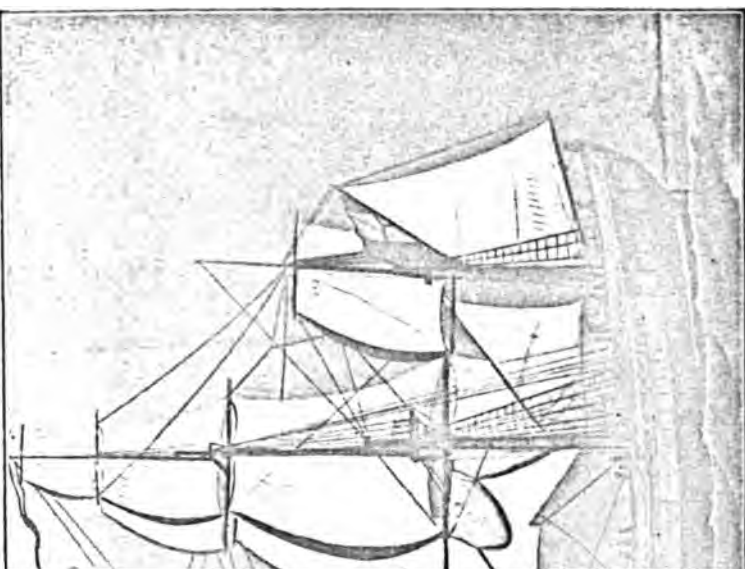
MAJOR GENERAL BASTIDE &c. &c. &c. o x

o The treasury alluded to above and in other lette was the Province Treasury, which served as a bank deposit for the people of the time. o

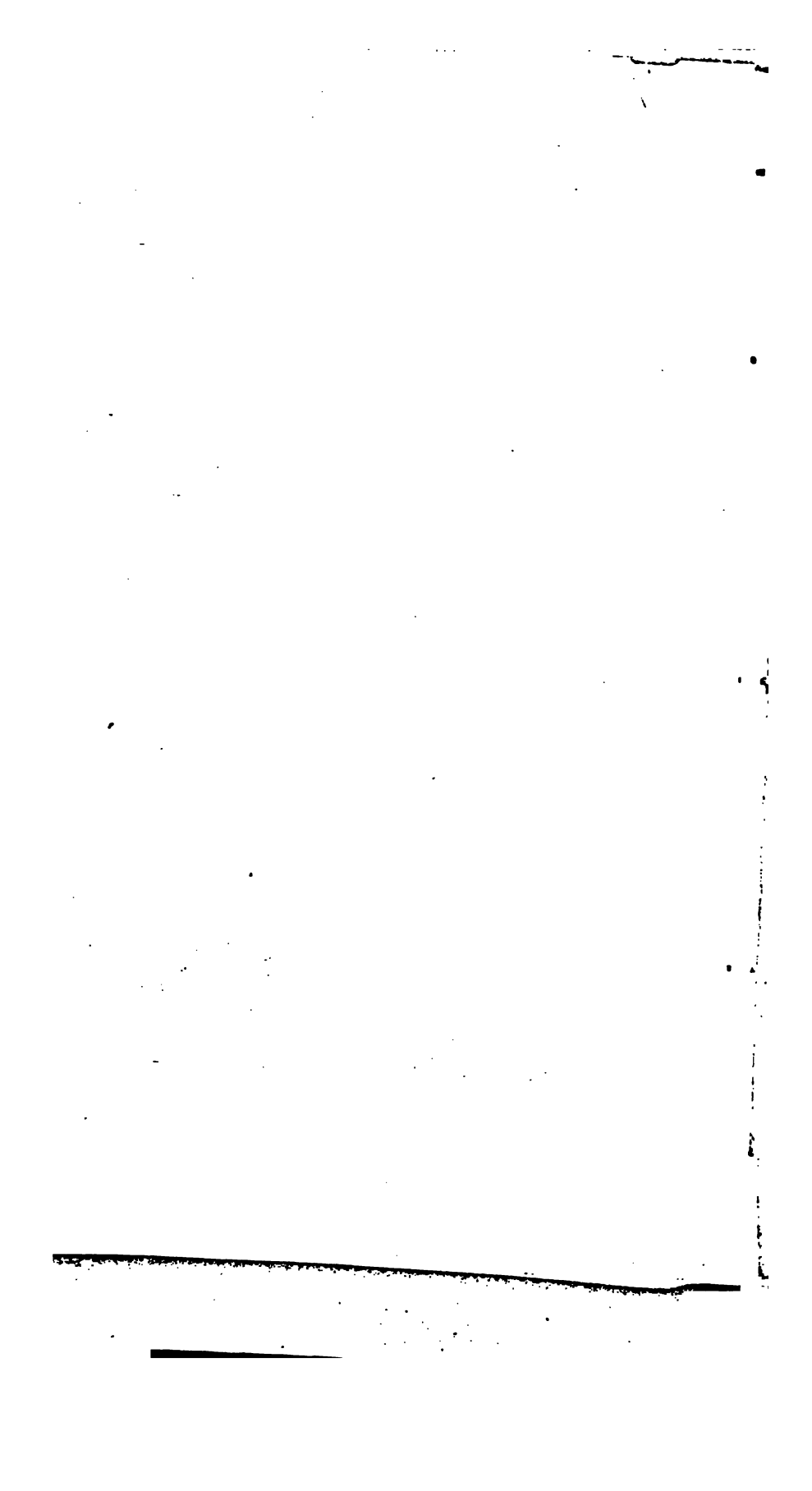
x Under the same date, a letter is written to Matthe

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Cooper was the pastor at the Brattle-street Church, attended the Hancock family.

*Dr. Cooper  
date*



ON PACKET.



Woodford, Esq., from which more facts are obtained in regard to supplies for the garrisons :—

SIR : Inclosed you have three months victualling Lists, one from March 21<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1763, for 13698 Rations, one from 18<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May 13424 Rations, one 16<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> June 15093 Rations.

We have Rec'd no Letter from you since 7<sup>th</sup> March, have the Pleasure to Tell you, that, Mr. Williams has got clear of all the old Bread except 1140<sup>lb.</sup>, but we were obliged to send him from Boston a Quantity of higher prized Bread for the officers, &c. to help it off & make 'em easy. We will Endeavor to get a Certificate from the Officers, if we can, that you may Recover this Loss, of the Government, as Mr. Gerrish Recommends.

As the Government are Repairing the Fort at Annapolis, suppose the numbers will be Augmented, Considerable of which Expect soon to hear.

To my Great Surprise, Mr. Gerrish writes me Mr. Townsend has forbid him to act any longer as Commissary for you. Copies of his Letters you have here Inclosed, as also one from Mr. Williams. We have wrote to Desire his Continuance, or to Recom-

for there. We have now a good Season & Like to have Great Crops, that next Year all Provisions must fall, propose to Send for Bread, Flour, Pork &c. to Philadelphia, to make up what's wanted, for the next six months, when we draw our own Bills of Exchange, & pay the ready money, as we did for the last Cargo, & is Cheaper than can be purchased here, although it's more trouble to us. Are now in advance for you. Acco<sup>ts</sup> will be Sent as soon as we have Time to Get them out, when shall Draw for the Ballance.

You may Depend we shall on all occasions, act, what we think will be most for your Interest and are

Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> & most Humble Servants. \*

BOSTON, Aug<sup>d</sup> 17, 1763.

GENT<sup>l</sup>: By Jarvis, we wrote You & handed You Invoice of 212 Casks Sperm Oil, in thirds with You & selves, hope will arrive safe & meet a good market.

We now Inclose You Invoice & Bill of Lading of 119 Casks Sperm Oil, & 172 Casks Whale Oil, Shipt, on board the Boscawen, Howard Jacobson Master, to Your address pr Invoice, on acco<sup>t</sup> and Risque of you & selves, wish may arrive safe. We would just observe to You that this Whale Oil, is far preferable to what commonly is at Your market, it is quite white & sweet, & well manufactured. We therefore Desire Your particular Inspection of it, in the Sale, & we judge will fetch a better Price than the brown sperm, as the quality of this much exceeds the common sorts and you may Recommend it for Such. We also cover You the cost of the whole am<sup>o</sup>, to £1436. 14. 4 Lawfull Money. One third of the n<sup>t</sup> Proceeds you will please to carry to the credit of T. H. & Co.; the other two thirds to be Settled between Yourselves & Folger & Gardner, to whom is left the Settlement of the Purchase of Your third here, & they will Draw for that Amount.

The new Ship goes on very well, we Expect she will be Launch'd by 15<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> next, & shall be able to get her away by 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. We believe this vessel will answer Your Expectations, as she appears to be well Executed, and will be a fine Ship, at least no Pains is spar'd to have her so.

We are Gent<sup>l</sup>,

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>ts</sup>,

THOMAS HANCOCK & Co.,

FOLGER & GARDNER. —

To MESSRS. JONAS BARNARD & Co.



*SETTLING GENERAL WHITMORE'S ESTATE* 31

The following letter of Aug. 23 shows that the legal steps have been taken in settlement of the Whitmore estate, and gives a hint at the working of the law of primogeniture as far as it was applicable in this country:—

You will see that the Judge has made a Distribution of the Estate here, according to our Laws & Decreed You two shares of said Estate, you being the Eldest son. I have acted in all things what I thought for your Interest. The Rank the General held in the Army, occasioned the expense of his funeral to be much higher than otherwise it might have been, but as he had all the Honors paid him according to his Rank, I am persuaded you will think the money well expended.

The keys of the Trunks are in the Bag with the Guineas. ]

## CHAPTER V

THOMAS HANCOCK'S PRIVATE CHARITY. LAUNCHING OF THE BOSTON PACKET. HER FIRST VOYAGE. JAMES OTIS A ATTORNEY. OTHER NOTED LAWYERS. HANCOCK SEND FOR WIGS. COSTUMES OF THE TIME. CORRESPONDENCE WITH LADY WARREN. AID TO PRISONERS AT BREST. HANCOCK FIRM LOST CONTROL OF NANTUCKET OIL TRADE DEALS IN MORTGAGES.

BOSTON, *September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1763.*

MY DEAR SIR: I am to acquaint you, that both Capt. Peter Bulkley, & his mother Mary Bulkley are Dead. Peter made a Will & Gave all to his Mother, who Died before him, & left nothing in this Country, that I can find. They are both in my Debt, for which Reason I have Taken out Letters of Administration upon both the Estates, the Reason I did it on Peter's was on Account of the Estate said to be his, in your Hands, and I most earnestly Desire that you will please to let me know the Circumstances of that Estate, and whether there will be any thing finally to Receive, when and what may be. I have Given Bonds to the Office & wholly maintained of Mr. Bulkley & Wife for many Years except what of your Goodness you advanced to her when at Boston, this I did in Compassion to the good old People, & if there is no Help for me from you out of that Estate at Epsom, I must wait for my Reward in the other World.

I shall be extremely Obligated to you for a Line on this Subject by first Opportunity, & to hear of your Health & Happiness.

Mrs. Hancock Joins in Compliments to both you & your good Lady, and believe me to be with great Regard

Dear Kilby

Your most Obligated Friend & most Obedt<sup>l</sup> Humble Servt.

P.S. You shall have Certificates if you please, of my Administration from the Office.

CHRISTOPHER KILBY, ESQ<sup>r</sup>.

In writing under date of Sept. 26, the Hancocks say:—

The 24<sup>th</sup> Inst. the New Ship was Launched & we shall use the utmost Dispatch to fit her for the Sea, & get her away as soon as possible. We think her a good vessell, well Built & believe will Answer your Expectations in every Respect. I am sorry Loring is not in, as we much want that Mr. Scott whom you Recommend; if she does not soon arrive, we must be obliged to fill up his Birth. We are much Hurried and add but that we hope soon to hear from you & that we are with Esteem Gents,

Your most Obedt Servts.

MESSRS. JONA. BARNARD & Co.

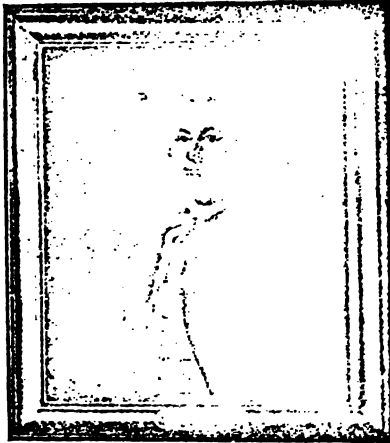
A month later, in a letter to the London agents, we read:—

Our ship Boston Packett will certainly sail by the 10th Novr had we not met with Disappointments, in oyle, would have sailed sooner, in Regard to Insurance act as you Judge best. Should She not arrive in Time, believe it best to Insure £1600 or £1700 sterlg, on the Ship, Nathl Coffin, master. As to the Cargo, cannot ascer-

senior member of the firm, or to exchange a friend greeting with John Hancock, who was but a few years his junior.

BOSTON, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1763

SIR: We Recd. Your Letter of July 14<sup>th</sup> last, covering a Letter & Power of Attorney to James Otis, Esq. which we Delivered him, in Consequence of which he Immediately Sett out for Newboston are Sorry, without Success, as he will write You by this opportunity,



JAMES OTIS.

to which we Refer find Mr. Harris's Efforts were all made over Secured to Messrs. T. Thickett & Co. long ago. We had a Letter from Harris declaring, till Otis acquainted him never heard of his Name, nor of this Command; he has a good Character here & a honest man. These fortunes are certainly brought upon him his Partner Cum gratia We are really sorry you. Mr. Harris since Taken Passage London, to Settle

affairs, having not had a letter from his Partner, these 18 months We should have been very ready to have assisted Mr. Otis in his affair & have paid Mr. Otis, his Demand £4. 10. sterling, which you will please to Repay to Mr. Barnard & Co.

We are Sir,

Your Most Obedt<sup>h</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

To MR ARTHUR JONES, Mercht.  
London.

\* The following letter of Oct. 29, 1763, suggests conditions of the market here which to the merchant of the day seem almost incredible:—

This is to Desire you will as soon as possible & without Fail Ship us from Cork 250 Barrels of Best Irish Pork & 100 Firkins of good Irish Butter, the weight of each Barrell of Pork to be mark'd on the head, to be well Pack'd. This Article will be very Scarce & Dear here, that we must Depend upon your shipping it with the 100 Firkins of Butter to be here in all March if possible & if no oppor'y to this place, Ship it to Halifax to the care of Benj. Gerrish Esqr. and as soon as the next May Butter is fit to ship we Desire you will then ship us 100 Firkins more of the best new Rose May Butter. We rely on your care to have these articles of the best kind & purchased at the best Rates, which charge to our accott.

We beg your attention to this that we may not by any means be disappointed, as we shall be in great want of it.

We are with Respect

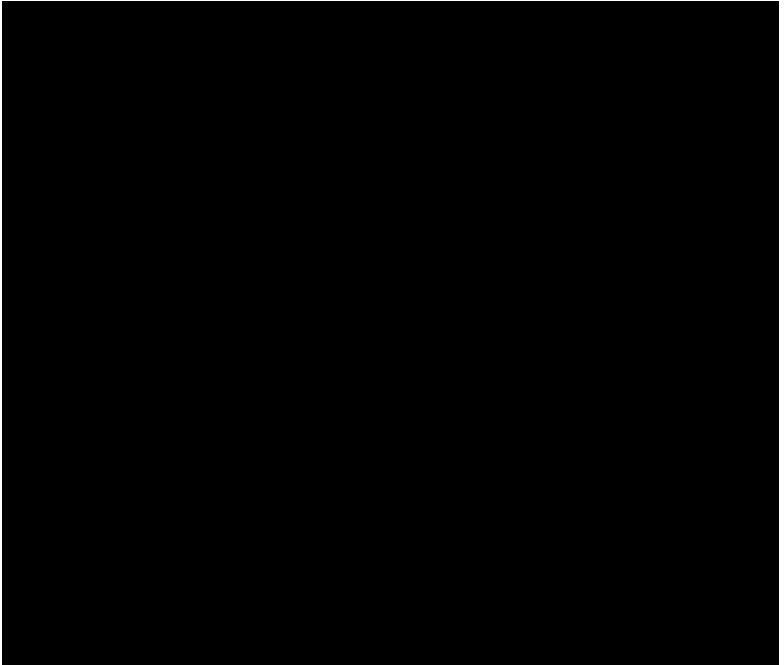
Gent<sup>l</sup>,

Your most hum. Servts.

MESSRS. JONA. BARNARD & Co.

✕

In a letter of Nov. 4, 1763, Mr. Thomas Hancock writes:—



Expence of. There is many People in this Country who have Lands Taken from them in the same manner, & have gone through Law Suits. Lost their Cases. They no Doubt will be willing to join You, should it be worth your while to make application Home.

We have paid for Examination of the Records, Postage, of Letters, &c.

We are Sir

Your Most Obedt. Humble Servt.

ANDREW LESLEY ESQ.

The land trouble referred to above was doubtless the outcome of the adjustment of the boundary in 1741 between New Hampshire and Massachusetts.]

[ In a letter of Nov. 9, 1763, we learn that the Hancock firm send for foolscap paper, and remind their agents that the last sent was too poor to take ink. A great variety of duties were intrusted to their foreign agents. On the 14th of the same month they send for a large quantity of grindstones to come by their new ship, Boston Packet, and close a long letter with the following:—]

Our J. H. asks the fav'r that Mr. Harrison will please to get made & sent him 1 neatt Bag wig and 1 neatt Bob wig. Fashionable & of a light colour, the size of Mr. Barnard's will nearly suit the Tie wig Mr. Birch made which J. H. Brought with him fitted very well. The cost of them Mr. Harrison will charge in his little accott with J. H.

The above order, and others for family supplies, suggest the costume of the time. Whoever met with Thomas Hancock in his home, doubtless saw him dressed in a red velvet cap, with an inside cap of white linen which turned over the edge of the velvet two or three inches; a blue damask dressing-gown lined with sky-blue silk; a white satin waistcoat, with deep embroidered flaps; black satin breeches, with long white silk stockings, and red morocco slippers.

If they met him on the street or at the warehouse, they noticed that he had changed his velvet cap for his bag or bob wig, and had on a large three-cornered hat ; in place of his flowered brocade he had on a gold-laced coat of red or blue broadcloth, with deep lace ruffles at the wrists ; had a sword on his side, and wore on his feet a pair of shoes with great silver or gold buckles.

But the costume of the elder Hancock could not have satisfied the younger. John Hancock in these days would be called a dandy. His toilet was elaborate. His shirt-front was trimmed with fine lace, and doubtless there was a great brooch stuck in it. His breeches were of green or red velvet, or white, lilac, or blue satin, and



March, if possible. We now Desire You to send us Double the Quantity at the lowest Freight, & if no oppor'y to this place, ship it to Halifax to the address of Benj. Gerrish Esq. Or if You prefer a Concern in Loading a small vessell to this place, we will stand the half, and think some Beef might answer, but it must be here early; if You do not incline; we must Depend You will send me the Quantity we wrote for, as soon as possible.

In a letter of Nov. 25 to the London agents we read:—

What of your Goods by Blake, that are on shore & opened, turn out well, except the single piece of scarlet Whitney we wrote for, which as we limited no Price & mentioned it was solely for T. H. & family's use this Winter, we Judg'd you would have been a little attentive to send it of the very best, had the expence been twice as much; instead of that you have sent a common Colchester Baize of a bad colour & so immoderately Coarse that it is entirely useless & some Disappointment to T. H. & will hardly answer for common sale at the Price. We are not apt to Fault You, but this we could not help mentioning & have to desire in future that you will please to, when any Article is wrote for Family use, to send it of the very best kind, cost what it will.

Thomas Hancock has occasion to write to Lady Warren again. The letter places before the reader the names of more of the lawyers of that time.

BOSTON, *November 24th, 1763.*

MADAM: I Receiv'd your fav'r of a Letter, wherein you Desired to pay Sir Peter's Subscription to the Church at Cambridge & that you had Desired Mr. Delancy to Remitt me the money, I have since Rec'd the Balla. of Majr Lockman's Bond, of poor Mr. Jones, who is since Reduc'd, & not worth a Farthing, and have paid me said Subscription out of that Money, and have wrote Mr. Delancey of it, & that he need not send me the Money.

I should be very glad, were it in my Power to Settle your affairs; but as my Health will not permitt, I beg you will Impower some other Gent'n to take the Papers, settle with me, & Collect the Remainder of your Debts.



I would Recommend to you, James Otis, Esq'r or Robert Auchmuty Esq'r, of the Law, or Nath'l Wheelwright, Esqr., or Nath'l Bethune, Esq'r., either of them will serve you faithfully.

Mrs. Hancock Joins me in best Comp'ts to you, and I am, Madam

Your most obed't & most Humble Serv'nt.

HON'BLE LADY SUS. WARREN.

The firm take upon themselves a new duty, and write, on Dec. 23, 1763, to London agents thus :—

We some time ago wrote you Respecting one David McCloud, who went a Ransomer for a vessell of Mr. Tim<sup>o</sup> Fitch's, we now Request the favr, You will please to write over to Brest, where he now is in Gaol, and order to be paid him, Five Pounds Sterl'g which charge to our accot<sup>t</sup>. This we do at the Desire of his Father; & you will please to signify the same to him & beg if you can be any way servicable in setting him at Liberty, that you will please to do it, as Mr. Fitch says he has money in your hands, & has Desired you long ago to pay the Ransom.

Boston, *February 9th, 1764.*

GENT<sup>l</sup>: I have taken Possession of Mr. Lewis Estate in Your names, which was mortgaged a security for his and Sewall's Debt to You, & can now sell so as to Receive your whole Debt, but the Power of Attorney I have from you, is not sufficient to give a Title to Real Estate, or I should have sold & Rec'd the whole of your Demands: I have therefore got a Power prepared agreeable to our Laws, which is here Inclosed. You will please to get authenticated & Return'd as soon as may be, for the Estate is mortgaged to two other People since, for more than its worth, but we must be satisfied, which can't be unless I Give a good Title, which can't be done until I have this Power & you need be at no other Expence at Home. I have Joined my Nephew in this Power, hope will be agreeable to you.

I am Dear Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup>, Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

MESSRS. CHRISTO KILBY &  
JON<sup>a</sup> BARNARD & Co.

CHAPTER VI

PASSENGERS TO ENGLAND. WILLIAM ROTCH IN THE COMMERCIAL BUSINESS. JAMES SCOTT ADVISED TO PRUDENCE. DEATH OF THOMAS HANCOCK. FUNERAL CUSTOMS. JOHN HANCOCK AND NANTUCKET MERCHANTS. GROUP OF OLD BOSTON MERCHANTS. LONDON INSURANCE.

MRS. EDWARD HOW goes to England in one of the Hancock vessels to seek redress of the government, 1764. In the vessel going next after her departure, Mr. Thomas Hancock writes to her thus:—

BOSTON, July 9<sup>th</sup> 1764.

GENT<sup>rs</sup> : The Boston Packett sail'd 27<sup>th</sup> of June & hope she is well on her Passage—as she has had a fine time & wish this may find her safe with you & beg your utmost Diligence to Dispatch her back, to this Place; if not a full freight better to get away early than lose a freight of White Oyl in the Fall, which shall be ready for her.

The Brig<sup>t</sup> Lydia, James Scott, Mas<sup>r</sup> will saile in six or eight days, to your address, with a valuable cargo of Sperm Oil, in Equal Thirds, with you, Folger & Gardner, & ourselves, as to Cargo. The Brig<sup>t</sup> on your acco<sup>t</sup> and ours, in equal halves, if agreeable to you. She is a very good Vessell & a cheap one. We think it best to make Insurance, at least in part & on Rec<sup>t</sup> of this, desire you will please to Order Insurance to be made at the Lowest Prem<sup>o</sup> Viz<sup>t</sup>.

On Brig<sup>t</sup> Lydia, James Scott, Mas<sup>r</sup> at and from Boston to London £800. On Cargo & Freight, £2200, 3000, Sterling. \* \* Oil is extremely high and scarce which you will Notice in the Sale. We have been so very Lucky in purchasing a Cargo of Oil, for this vessell & think we have Gained a Great Point, when Mr. Rotch's vessell lays waiting for Oil & she began to Load before Our Brig<sup>t</sup> was Ready to Take in & indeed while the Boston Packett was Load'g. You shall have some particulars hereafter.

Give us leave out of friendship just to mention that we think you are not altogether so Regular in Your answers to Letters & Sending acco<sup>t</sup>s of Sales, &c. as is Expected; we have heard many Complaints of that Sort, which is apt to Prejudice Persons against your House. We could not say so much, as could have wished, as there is a great Proof of it as to our own acco<sup>t</sup>s. This you will Excuse & hope there will be no occasion for the like Complaints in future.

You will duly Notice that we did not Recommend Mrs. How to you for Credit only for any little Civilities or Services you might please to show her, as she was Distressed.

We can't add but that we are Sincerely

Gent<sup>rs</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Servants.

MESSRS. BARNARD & HARRISON.

∧ Mr. Rotch alluded to in the above letter was probably William, brother of Francis Rotch, who built the ship

*WILLIAM ROTCH IN COMMERCIAL BUSINESS* 43

Dartmouth, and placed her in the merchant service. They were sons of Joseph Rotch. The family at first appear at Nantucket, from whence they went to Dartmouth, which in part became New Bedford. Mr. Francis Rotch named his vessel, built in 1767, for the old town, where he took up his abode at about the time of his introduction to Mr. Hancock.



proceed to New Castle & Receive on board a full Load of Coals, f this Place, which we think will answer pretty well, especially as is not probable, many ships will come from thence, as our Market have been so dull. In case she proceeds to New Castle, or on a other voyage, you will keep her fully Insured, till her arrival at Bo ton. We shall have a Load of Oyl Ready for the Brig't on her r turn here. Messrs Folger & Gardner must pay 50 / sterl'g per To Freight for one third the cargo, which Suppose you will Char; them, and Credit our accott. for one half their freight.

You will please to advice Mr. Scott against incurring any nee less Expences on the Brig't, & pray Recommend Prudence & ca to him, as he is Young, & let him advise with you, Respectiv his conduct. The Brig't, has we think Provisions Sufficient bring her back & don't know any stores she is in want of.

[ This letter concludes with an order, which reveals th suffering condition of the senior member of the firm :-

Please to send by the Boston Packett a covering for a Bed, be had at Mr. Fisher's, the Eiderdown Warehouse in Litchfie street, Oxford market, pray be very particular in the choice of good one, as it is for our T. H.'s own use, in the Gout, about ni or Ten Guineas' Value. It is call'd an Eider down Quilt or Cove ing; a<sup>x</sup> Bale of Crocus for Bread Bags, 7 or 800 yds., yd. wd.; Ton of Good Sound Cheshire cheese; 10 chests of Good Floren Oyle. Send none but new.<sup>x</sup> [If the Brig't goes to New Castle pr order us from thence Ten Groce of best Quart Champaign Bottle for own use, to be well pack'd in Basketts.]

But a few more letters are recorded during the montl and there follow several blank pages suggestive of th silence in the leading business house of the provinc The senior member, /Thomas Hancock, died on Aug. from apoplexy, being attacked while at Old State Hous where he was serving as one of his Majesty's council.

The funeral of Thomas Hancock was a ceremony i keeping with the times, when gloves and rings wer freely given, according to the rank and estate of th deceased. There was observed on this occasion, tl

custom of hanging the escutcheon of a deceased head of a family from the window or over the entrance of his dwelling when the funeral ceremony was to begin. /

The manner in which a house was prepared for a funeral is thus described by Mrs. Stowe in "Old Town Folks:" —

"It was a doctrine of these good old times, no less than of many in our present days, that a house invaded by death should be made as forlorn as hands could make it. It should be rendered as cold and stiff, as unnatural, as dead and corpse-like, as possible, by closed shutters, looking-glasses pinned up in white sheets, and the locking-up and out of sight of any pleasant little familiar object which would be thought out of place in a sepulchre."

The funeral of Thomas Hancock was the last when the extremes of custom, in the way of mourning-badges, were observed.

The people of Boston decided upon a non-importation

W.  
BOSTON, Aug<sup>th</sup> 17, 1764.

GENT<sup>l</sup>: I now Inclose you Invoice & Bill of Lading of thirty one barrells & four hogsheads of potashes shipt on board the Elizabeth, Edm<sup>d</sup> Wendell master to your address which you will dispose of to the best advantage & credit my account for the produce. I must desire you will have it all weighed, & dispose of it at the smallest tare you can. I hope it will meet a good markett.

Inclosed is a Certificate from the Custom house of the several Cargoes of oyl & the whale bone referred to in my Letter in Co<sup>y</sup> with Folger & Gardner. I cannot now be so particular as I could wish, being much Engaged & hurri'd. Pray dispatch the Boston Packett & Brig<sup>t</sup> Lydia as early as possible that they may return with a Load of oyl—.

The whole of the oyl shipt to Your Markett this year will Center with You & Champion & Haley, & Buxton & Symmes, & you may depend in the fall that you will have as much or more, for the plan they have laid of Engrossing the whole oyl, will not Effect, neither shall it, for I determined rather to increase than lessen my Concerns in it. X My visit to Nantuckett was very agreeable & formed such Connections as to prevent any disappointment, I can have what Oyl I please & of the best men there, which of course, takes from the other Channell and is very chagrining to Mr. R—h but he knows my mind. x ]

I continue in the same store, and propose carrying on the same business as with my late Uncle, by myself, of which shall write you more hereafter. I should be glad of your opinion respecting oyl & Pott ashes, whale bone, &c., & to know your inclinations as to concerns in oyl, whether you would approve a concern in more than what will load the ships & Brig's. Inclosed you have a Certificate of landing the Tea & Partridge, so long depending in the Custom House.

You will please to observe that Folger & Gardner settle with You for the third of Cash of all the Cargoes except the Brig<sup>t</sup> Lydia's Cargo, which I shall settle, & your third of s<sup>d</sup> Cargo being £779. 13. 3. sterl'g. You will please to carry to the credit of T. H. & Co. & I have accordingly chg'd it to you & you will credit s<sup>d</sup> account with one third the produce of all the Cargoes of oyl &c. W

I am apply'd to by Mr. Timothy Fitch and the Parents of David McCloud to undertake to get him releas'd and Mr. Fitch will reimburse the Expence.

I must desire the favor You will please to write over to Brest to



know if he be there, and if he is, that You use your best Endeavour to obtain his Release on the best terms you can, the Ransom is £200. sterl'g, & no doubt some Expences to pay, which pray Endeavour may be as moderate as possible & I must desire You will please to order it to be paid as soon as possible, and charge to my account. Send me the amount with all charges that I may receive it of Mr. Fitch.

I must further desire that when he is releas'd You would procure him a passage to this place, if any vessel of mine in the River, I would give him his passage in her. Pray get him releas'd immediately.

I must beg leave to Referr to my next, for what I have further to say, and am with the greatest respect

Gent<sup>le</sup>

Your most obedt. Servt.

The cost of Brig Lydia and Expences of Boston Packett shall be sent by next.

To MESSRS. BARNARD & HARRISON. ✓

Again, to same agents, Mr. Hancock says:—

We shall be glad You will be Explicit in Your opinion respect-

keeps a sharp lookout for the conditions of the market in oil, and writes his London agents on Oct. 10, 1764 :

I was a little surprized that Champion & Haley should get the oyl in Coffin £29, & ours but £27. I don't not you'r doing y utmost, but such things are apt to give a Prejudice to some Peop but you may depend I shall always do my utmost for the Intere of Your house in all respects. I must beg at all events You send me the Co. Accounts settled. I long e'er now Expected sales of the oyl, & pray close those accounts as soon as possible

Mr. Hancock notifies Barnard & Harrison that has drawn bills on them in favor of several gentlemen amounting to £3,668. This was done between Sept. and Oct. 12, showing that he did somewhat of an extensive banking business together with his other branch

The list of names is of interest, as among them : men who were prominent in Boston's affairs of that time and during later years :—

Thomas Amory, who built a stately edifice at the corner of Park and Beacon Streets.

Samuel Abbott.

William Bowes, a cousin of John Hancock, of whom more may be said.

Burnell & Barker, a Nantucket firm.

John Cunningham.

Samuel Eliot, a reformer in the Fire Department and a dealer in dry goods in Dock Square.

Royal Tyler, Esq., one of a young men's club in 1777-1778. They had a room at the corner of Court and Brattle Streets where they met and discussed politics, literature, and (says Drake).

Benjamin Clark was one of the company who threw the tea overboard.

Christopher Clark, one of fifty principal merchants who charged crown officers with appropriating to their own use more than belonged to the Province.

William Gray, familiarly known as "Billy," was a man of mercantile eminence, and the largest ship-owner in America.

John Appleton and Nathaniel Appleton, names familiar to Boston society.

Rufus Green, an officer in Trinity Church.

J. and D. Waldo. }

Mr. Hancock renewed the contract for supplying the garrison; shipped to London agents a cargo of oil by the Tuton, Thomas Robson, master, and on the 25th of October wrote to Barnard & Harrison thus:—

Since my last I am favoured with yours & Capt<sup>s</sup> Diney, Bruce & Marshall. The latter arrived Yesterday. Bruce got here four days before Marshall. Your's by the Boston Packett. Inclos'd Inve & Bill of Lading of the Goods on board him; but was greatly disappointed in not having all the things wrote for, particularly the Lemons & oyl, which would come to a very good Markett I beg you would at all times be careful to send all my Goods at the first opp'y, as it makes a great odds in the sale. You also neglected the Eider-down Quilt & many other things which if you do not send by Scott will be a great disappointment to me. I am also at a Loss, to ac-

secure insurance on vessels and cargoes, it was all done in England, which must have been an added disadvantage in the conduct of business.

Although the general system of insurance may be traced back for several centuries in England, its adoption in this country is of a comparatively recent date. Mr. Joseph Marion established an insurance office in Boston as early as 1724, but he met with little encouragement for many years. While the commercial relations of the colony were confined closely to trade between it and the mother country, it was evidently thought best to obtain the needed insurance upon the vessels making transatlantic voyages in the insurance associations of England.

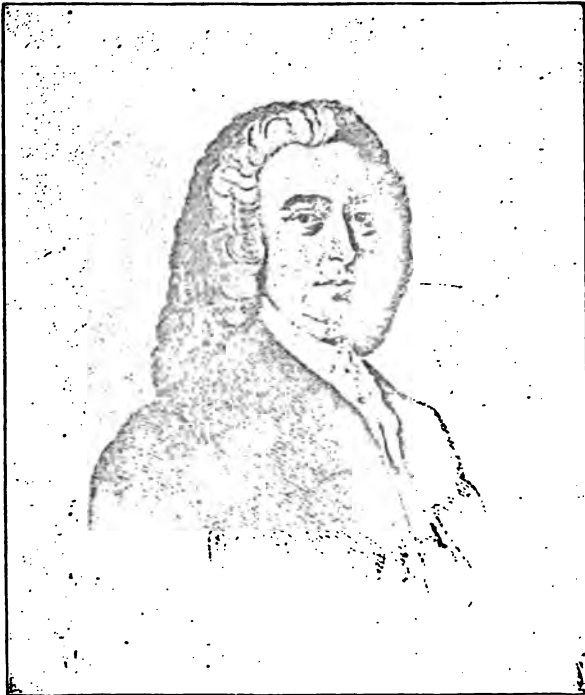
CHAPTER VII

EFFORT TO COLLECT BILLS IN LONDON. JOHN HANCOCK AID RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. AN EYE FOR BUSINESS. IN QUARANTINE. RESOLVES TO DO NO MORE BUSINESS ON SHARES. WATCHES COMPETITORS. SMALL-POX INJURES BUSINESS. SENDS TO LONDON FOR SHOES. HIS BOSTON SHOEMAKER. SENDS FOR SEA-COALS, TEA, HEMP, ETC.

In a letter of Nov. 17, 1764, to Barnard & Harrison, Mr. Hancock writes:—

I should be very glad you would give some attention to recover payment of the Bills long ago remitted you by my late uncle. Say Govr.<sup>s</sup> Shirleys Bill & many others, if you can obtain payment thereof, or use your influence, shall take it a favour. I beg your

est, industrious man, & I prevail'd on him to take my brother into partnership; they write you for goods by my desire. I think you are safe with them, however, I will be answerable to you for five hundred pounds sterl'g on their accounts and shall give them a bill



*W. Whirley*

for that sum; hereafter you will use your judgment as to a farther concern with them beyond the £500, as I shall not be answerable for any more. Mr. Aurthur Savage<sup>1</sup> is Passenger in Marshall, his

<sup>1</sup> Drake says: "Arthur Savage was an officer of customs in Boston. He is credited with having had the ball which killed General Warren at

business home is to obtain a credit for goods, he is recommended to me as an honest, industrious man, but no great capital. His friends have prevailed on me to give him a letter to you, which I have done, and further, if he succeeds and should apply to you for a few goods I will be accountable to you for three hundred pounds & if he does not pay you in time that amount I will see you paid, but I do not mean by this to strengthen his credit with you, so as to give him a further supply, neither will I advise to it, but when you see him you will be able to judge for yourselves, and act your pleasure.

This I do purely to serve him, and at the Earnest request of his friends. The Brig (Brigantine) Lydia is not yet arrived. I wish she may soon get in as I have all her Loading ready & will dispatch her if good weather in twenty days. I cant but approve of Capt. Marshalls conduct in every Respect & hope he will Merit your countenance.

I have sent you a large order for Goods. You must be carefull that they are well chosen & best of their kinds. I must beg that the oznabrigs now ordered may not be purchased of the same person, that the two last parcels, you sent us were, for such importations are not to be countenanced, about a yard of it outside very good & the remainder unfit for any use, that it is turned upon my

tion the rather as you make Provision for a Markett, for it will be the whole to come to your Markett this season.

We are with much Respect

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. H.

FOLGER & GARDNER.

Mr. Hancock writes to Messrs. Wright & Gill, also to Mr. William Jones, informing them of the death of the senior member of the firm, and solicits business as in the past.

He also introduces Messrs. Blanchard & Hancock to these firms, also to Devonshire & Reeve.

Ebenezer Hancock was the younger brother of John Hancock. He was employed by the firm; but soon after the death of his uncle left the situation, and set up business with Mr. Blanchard. Of Ebenezer more hereafter.

Mr. Arthur Savage and Mr. Arthur Jenkins were both introduced to Barnards & Harrison as men worthy of their confidence.

Under date of Nov. 23, 1764, Mr. Hancock addresses his London agents. He makes complaint of neglect on their part, and cautions them not to be remiss in that line again. He further adds:—

The goods I have wrote for you will please to send & let them be marked I & H. I wrote you that to prevent trouble, you might charge the cost of trunk of goods I. W. to my account, since which I have opened the trunk & on examination find the Cambrick & Lawn very badly charged. So high in Price & bad in Quality, that unless you can obtain an allowance for me I must loose money, for their Charge with the Duty I have paid here, will be more than I can sell them for; do think of this & make me an allowance.

I observe you have sold the oyl pr. Hunter, the White & Brown well sold, but wonder there should be such a difference in the Price



of whale oyl between your house & Mr. Lane's. Mr. Rowe<sup>1</sup> of this Place owner of Capt. Hunter, ship<sup>d</sup> some whale oyl at same time of Hunter, and has an account of Sales of it, at £23. 15/. and yours only £21. the difference is a handsome Profit, but make no doubt you did your best.

I beg at all events you will use your utmost Endeavours that Marshall may be here by the last of March, fill up with Hemp for me rather than detain her with you. You will have goods enough of your own I think to give her the quickest despatch, nothing in my power shall be wanting to return her from hence.

I hope soon to hear from you, being with tenders of my best Services & Sincere Esteem,

Gent

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Servt.

If those whose strongest impression of John Hancock has been that of pride, vanity, and conceit, will read his correspondence thus far, they will, at least, credit the neglected man with shrewdness and acumen in business transactions, and readiness to aid others less fortunate than himself. There is no room for doubt or uncer-

BOSTON, Dec. 6, 1764.

GENT<sup>l</sup>: I have at last got the Brig safe up to town, and tomorrow will be clear, and next day begins to take in that, if the weather, which at this Season is very precarious, should hold good, I determine to put her to sea at farthest by 20<sup>th</sup> Instant, and had it not been for the unlucky accident of the Small Pox, she would have been on her way to you by this. I should be glad the masters would be carefull, who they take on board as passengers, for this misfortune of the Smallpox, on board the Brig, was wholly owing to a Negro Servant of Mr. Williams, who had just recovered of that disorder; this will at least create us an Expençe of £50. stg.<sup>1</sup> You will please to order Insurance to be made on Cargo, of Brig, Lydia, James Scott Master, as & from Boston to London viz. on oyl, Bone & Freight, £3400 sterlg. in thirds, with you, Folger & Gardner & myself, at least you will insure my third & F & G. Your own you will order as you think proper. You will also please to insure £800. stg. on vessell, at least you will insure my proportion of her at that rate. You will act your pleasure as to your part. . . . I am now determined not to hold any Concerns, nor carry on the whole of other peoples business, with my Money. I have long enough done that. I am sorry that the Boston Packett is under such an incumbrance. I would willingly take J. F.'s third even at the first cost. I am really ashamed to have so many owners. I wish to have her wholly between you & I, and is what I shall attempt in the spring. You are not sensible the trouble I have. I have paid every farthing Cash for the whole cargo of Boston Packett, and had it all to provide as much as if J. F. had no connection with her, and not one Cask of oyl from him on board her, which I think is hard fate, and what I can't submit to, for I can't no way advance my own money and give others the advantage of it, and this is not a sudden determination of my own but was what my late uncle was freely bent on, even if he had sold the Boston Packett and built another. . . .

<sup>1</sup> When ordering negroes for domestic service, Boston merchants were careful to get those who had recovered from the small-pox. In 1739 Peter Faneuil sent the following order to his London agent: —

"Please to buy from a sale of fish, for me, for the use of my house, as likely a straight negro lad as possibly you can, about the age of from 12 to 15 years, and if to be done one that has had the small-pox, who being for my service, I must request the favor you will let him be one of as tractable disposition as you can find."

I will write you fully by Scott, if Goods are shipt to order. I beg you will let me know who they are for, as it will prevent much trouble. I would also just mention that many things shipt on board Boston Packett to Newbury, Salem, &c. especially little things are a loss to the Ship as that freight is seldom obtained, that the fewer of these the better. I also wonder that Rotch & others should have Hemp on board the Brig Lydia, and mine omitted, but I will say no more of this. I have opened my mind, & hope in future I shall not be neglected for the sake of transient customers.

My best Comp<sup>s</sup> attend you & I am with sincere esteem,

Gent<sup>s</sup>

Your most obed. Servt.

MESSRS. BARNARD & HARRISON.

BOSTON, Decr. 7, 1764.

GENT<sup>s</sup>: I have just now receiv'd your favour by Capt. Doggett, and am obliged to you for your Expression of Condolence therein.

Whenever I have occasion for any supplies from your place you may rely I shall apply to you, as the Experiences my late uncle & I had of your fidelity & equity in the Transaction of your Business will induce me thereto. At present I am in want of only a few articles, for which I now inclose you Invoice, and you will please to send

in fact, Governor Bernard, in January, issued a proclamation forbidding it until all other means for controlling the disease should have failed. Merchants and traders removed their goods out of town, and set up business elsewhere. ||



OLD STATE-HOUSE.

“Gilbert Deblois did not stop short of Weston, with his large stock of hardware, and had a commodious shop and store adjoining the house of Mr. Josiah Smith, innholder, on the Great Road to Worcester, at the sign of the Half Moon, near the meeting-house. He had New England rum by the hogshead, barrel, or less quantity, W. I. goods, etc.”

The General Court met at Cambridge instead of in Boston; and while there the fire occurred that de-

stroyed Harvard Hall, with the library, etc. Subsequent letters will show us that the Hancocks were liberal in making up the loss.

On Dec. 9, 1764, with orders to his London agents in regard to insurance to be placed on the brig *Fly*, he says:—

I should be much obliged if your G. H. would be so kind as to ask Mr. Brookbank if he has not lost my measure, to make me a dozen pairs of very neat shoes, which you will please to send me & pray pay the cost, which charge my acct.

Doubtless the shoes were for special occasions, as Mr. Hancock had a shoemaker in Boston. In a letter of Dec. 19, 1764, he writes to London agents thus:—

You have a little memo of Leather &c. from my shoemaker, which I would be glad you would send & charge to my account, consigned to me, it may be charged in my Invoice only let the che'k of this particular be mentioned in the Bill of Lading. Mark the Package H. R.

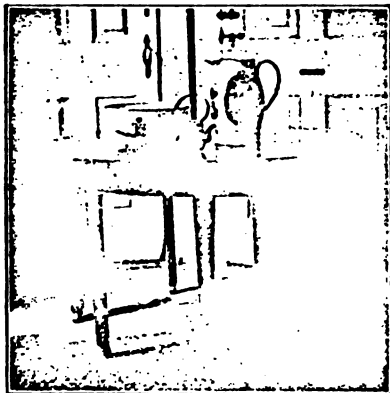
Other orders under same date are:—

10 Tons best Petersburg Braak Hemp—in half bundles, not to be broke if I pay more freight. Talliers on each Bundle, strongly tied & pray Your orders to Scott that they be kept whole & not broke on any Consideration.

1000 lb best and stout Russia Duck

ment of Dec. 25, 1764. We also learn that he had a store nearer the business centre than his wharf. The location and merchandise are described as follows:—

“Store No. 4, at the east end of Faneuil Hall Market, a general assortment of English and India Goods, also choice Newcastle Coals, and Irish Butter, cheap for Cash. Said Hancock desires those persons who are still indebted to the estate of the late Hon. Thomas Hancock, Esq., deceased, to be speedy in paying their respective balances to prevent trouble.”



HANCOCK TABLE AND FURNISHINGS SEEN IN OLD STATE HOUSE.

(Copper kettle made for Hancock by Paul Revere, having "P. R." stamped inside the cover.)

## CHAPTER VIII

REVENUE LAWS MAKE BANKRUPTS. SIR PETER WARREN.  
HANCOCK TRIES TO FORM AN OIL TRUST. JOHN HAN-  
COCK'S FINANCIAL STRAITS. HANCOCK'S DINNER PARTY  
WITH WILLIAM ROTCH. CHOSEN ON THE BOARD OF SE-  
LECTMEN. DRAWS FROM THE PROVINCE TREASURY.  
INVOICE OF SILKS.

THE determined opposition to the course of the gov-  
ernment had a ruinous effect on the business of Boston  
and vicinity. Of this Mr. Hancock writes to his Lon-  
don agents:—

BOSTON, *Jan'y 21, 1765.*

GENTS: The great uneasiness and Losses here owing to the fail-



Symmes accot the vessell is upon Symmes accot, the Event of this depends upon the Circumstances and Honour of the French Gent: Mr. Symmes writes you on this Subject, & as I take him to be an Honest, industrious man, I am to beg you will interest yourself in this affair for him & spare no pains to Endeavour to obtain Satisfaction agreeable to Contract. I am confident you can be serviceable and hope you will be able to recover it for him, as he is greatly distressed and is a large concern to him. I apprehend Exclusive of this contract affair Mr. Symmes is safe, at least he has that Character, he is very active and industrious. I recommend his affairs to you and beg you will serve him all you can. In any concerns of yours this way you may rely on any service in my power, being with esteem  
Gent.

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.

∩ The affair of Wheelwright's failure with such aggravated Circumstances is the greatest shock to trade that ever happened here, ∩

✱ John Hancock had occasion, in the settlement of his uncle's estate, to write to Lady Warren.

BOSTON, *January 5, 1765.*

MADAM: You have undoubtedly before this heard of the melancholy event of the death of my late Uncle Thomas Hancock Esq. This circumstance has devolved the Settlement of his affairs upon me and occasions my writing you on the Subject of your connections with him. The Bond & Mortgages of the late Sr. Peter Warren, left in his hands, the multiplicity of affairs I am concerned in puts it out of my power to undertake the Settlement of those matters. That I am to request you will be pleased to give orders to some Persons to receive the Bonds &c. of me, & at same time empower the same Gent<sup>a</sup> to settle the account with me, & give me a discharge. I now inclose you the account as it stands on my late Uncle's Books. Ballance due to you £47. 19. 4 sterlg. which I am ready to pay to your order. I should think some Gent<sup>a</sup> of the Law here would be most like to forward the settlement of them, Robert Auchmuty Esq. or James Otis Esq. are noted Gent<sup>a</sup> of the Law, either of them I believe would undertake it & think you may rely on their Integrity.

You will please to take this matter under your consideration & let me hear from you on the subject.

I am Madam

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lady Warren  
Cavendish Square, London.

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>.



CHAPTER VIII

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You will please to take this matter under your consideration & let me hear from you on the subject.

I am Madam

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>.

Honble Lady Warren  
Cavendish Square, London.

Sir Peter Warren, to whom the reader has been previously introduced, was the naval hero of Louisburg. He came to Boston in 1746 with General Pepperell (Sir William). He was a friend and business correspondent of Thomas Hancock, whose hospitality he had fully enjoyed. At the time of his death in England there was unsettled business in Boston, which was intrusted to Thomas Hancock, as the letters have revealed. A descendant of Sir Peter was General Joseph Warren, killed at the battle of Bunker Hill. x

On Feb. 7, 1765, in a letter to Barnards & Harrison, Mr. Hancock says :—

I shall be glad you will take the trouble to overlook some late Letters & be explicit in your answers, as hitherto we have had no reply & desire your Consideration thereon particularly on the charge of a double commission on the affair of the Provisions from Ireland, & several other matters, referr'd to your determination to

our own produce & manufactures. We are terribly burthen'd, our Trade will decay, we are really worth a Saving. I shall soon write you again & am with great respect

Gent.,

your most obed<sup>t</sup>. serv<sup>t</sup>.,

JNO. HANCOCK.

*I am preparing all our <sup>old</sup> Accounts to be trans-  
mitted to you, as also the Accounts of Chas<sup>l</sup> & Lewis, which  
shall be sent by next Packet when I shall write you fully —  
Pray dispatch Marshall as quick as possible & you may rely on  
my best Endeavours to return him to you. Some are! & very  
Incurious how you must make the most of your Amittances  
as Money is extremely scarce, & had very dull. If we are not  
reliev'd to home we must live upon our own produce & manuf-  
factures — we are terribly burthen'd our Trade will decay and  
are really worth a saving, I shall soon write you again, &  
am with great respect*

*Yours most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>*

*J<sup>no</sup> Hancock*

Trusts, corners, and kindred terms may be regarded as modern devices in trade; but the wire-puller of to-day had his progenitor in Provincial Boston. Mr. Rotch, the Nantucket merchant, had a purpose when he dropped in to chat with John Hancock; and the object of Hancock's extending to his brother merchant an invitation to dine with him was that they might, under more favorable circumstances, come to an agreement in order to control the trade in oil. Witness this letter:—

BOSTON, April 5, 1765.

I duly note what you say of oyl and the Conversation you had with Buxton, Symes & Enderby. I wish their and your determina-

*HANCOCK TRIES TO FORM AN OIL TRUST* 65

tion as to a limitation in the price of oyl could take effect. You do not so well know the disposition of some of their connections here as I do, having had frequent conferences on the Same Subject, but to no Effect. You do not consider the number of oyl Buyers here who, not Considering the consequences, Give any price for oyl for the sake of getting their Ships away, tho' I am full in the belief that the number of ships in the London trade must soon be Lesen'd. I should be very fond of keeping the price down, but if others will



R—h) buy up, which you may depend will be the case notwithstanding all your attempts and plans, and even the promise of some here, but I shall do my best, at the same time I imagine Rotch must load Deverson and Calef, even if oyl be much higher than £14, & I much Question whether it will be so low. But if the price should break higher I must purchase sufficient to load Marshall at least, for it is not worth while to keep a ship to make but one voyage a year however this you may rely. I will purchase on as good terms as anyone, for you could never intend that I should not purchase at any other price than your Limits, that would be giving the whole advantage to others and Establishing their vessels in the Trade, but I can better write the state of things after I have conferred with Mr. Rotch.

Capt. William Doble of this place who is Connected in the Newfoundland trade, and is now going thither applied to me to mention him to your house, he has long been connected with Lane & Booth, but has taken some disgust at their conduct, he is largely connected in the Fish trade, and is a man of Interest in the Land, he writes you, to whose Letters I refer. You may depend on his Engagements & I believe you will find him a profitable and agreeable Correspondent on his Branch. You will please to acquaint him with your connections in Spain & Portugal as he ships several cargoes thither yearly.

I shall soon forward all my accounts. I have been much confined in the course of the winter which has prevented my closing those accounts. Do write me particularly as often as you can the state of things with you.

I shall soon look for Marshall, am glad you are like to return Scott with a full freight as soon as the price of oyl Breaks. I shall then act what I think most for the Interest of the whole.

I shall soon write you again & am with Esteem,

Your most hble servt.

Our Provincial history scarcely affords an instance where two prominent people, more unlike in habits and tastes, sit at meat together. William Rotch was a non-resistant Quaker merchant of Nantucket, and extensive ship-owner, having nothing in common with John Hancock in the line of patriotism. The Nantucket of 1898 holds exalted traditions of William Rotch as the

soul of mercantile honor. His store, built in 1772, is standing, owned by the Pacific Club (retired whalemén), and is in part occupied for a custom-house and signal-station. There hangs in the club building a picture of the "Boston Packet" fitted as a whale-ship. ]

The financial condition of the Province is well set forth in a letter from Mr. Hancock to Barnards & Harrison.

*April 18, 1765.*

GENT: Last night only I received your favour of 7<sup>th</sup> January by the Pacquett, and duly note the Contents observe all the Bills I remitted you hitherto advised of are paid; wish to hear Scollay's Bill is paid. I am much obliged to you for honouring my Bill, as also those from Philad<sup>a</sup> could I be so successful here as to collect only one Quarter of my debts, I need not draw any Bills, but such is the scarcity of that article & the Poverty of this country, that I cannot place any dependence on monies here, and suppose shall be forced to draw farther Bills, for Marshall & Scott's Cargo unless I should take my money out of the Treasury, which would be hard  
I shall however draw as little as I possibly can, in which case

may purchase for Marshall & Scott & give him all the despatch I can, tho' I don't imagine he can depart hence till the latter end of June from the present prospect. I sometime past wrote you that I had used my Endeavours with Jona. Burnell and Paul Bunker of Nantuckett both wealthy men, to enter their Connections with you, which they then consented to do, and find by your Letter it took effect. You may depend I shall not be wanting to do your house all the kind offices I can, and when an opening of that kind, and I am confident you are safe, I shall not fail recommending your house.

I observe the Adventure is coming to me as yet have no act of her. She must be in soon. I shall give Edwards all the despatch I can. I am sorry you ship'd the Articles of Lemons and Sallad oyl, the former the town is at present full of and the latter will not fetch the first cost. I have not been able to sell the six chests you ship'd me in Hatch it comes so much cheaper in another channel, that you will be well off even to get the first cost, however I will do the best I can, and push them off immediately at the best price. as to the Coals, it is not the season to dispose of them, that unless I can get a tolerable price for them, it would be best to store them, but I shall be better able to determine that matter after they are arrived, at present no markett for them I shall however dispose of all the other articles directly agreeable to your order, at the highest price. Capt. Blake is no doubt with you long ago.

I am obliged to you for paying the Ransom of Davd. McCloud. I wish to have the whole charge as soon as possible as Mr. Timothy Fitch is to reimburse me the whole amount.

In addition to the cares of his own business, John Hancock had the added responsibility of being one of the Selectmen of Boston. He was chosen on that board at the town-meeting of March, 1765. His lamented uncle had occupied that position for many years, and the honor was most gratefully transferred to the young man. The town early placed the name of Thomas Hancock with that of Peter Faneuil, for he had by his last will made provision for an asylum for the insane. While encomiums of praise for the noble acts of the deceased merchant were being sounded in the ears of his



nephew, who was carrying out his requests, there came to the busy man rumors of a Stamp Act. Merchant vessels often brought items of news from over the ocean long before any official announcement was made. But people were credulous of such reports, whether welcome or otherwise. The Stamp Act was passed on March 22, 1765, and early in April we find John Hancock writing to Barnards & Harrison, agents in London, thus:—

I hear the stamp act is like to take place, it is very cruel, we were before much burthened, we shall not be able much longer to support trade, and in the end Great Britain must feel the ill effects of it. I wonder the merchants and friends to America don't make some stir for us.

Some of the fortunes of a merchant are touched upon in the following letter to the London agents:—

In the course of my connections in Trade here, I have been

with Common Success I may meet a large Supply out of my own vessels. I have now four vessels and believe another year shall increase ye number.

I shall soon write you again. pray write me by all oppy, & forward me all our accotts. My best Compl<sup>ts</sup>. attend you & believe me with perfect Esteem.

Gent<sup>l</sup>.

Your most obed. & most faithful serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. H. best respects to his particular friend Mr. Harrison, begs his excuse for not writing him by this, hopes he is well, & will write him a long Letter.

Mr. Hancock writes a business letter to London agents, in part as follows:—

BOSTON, *May 13, 1765.*

GENT<sup>l</sup>: I cannot enlarge having money matters to attend to just now, shall soon write you largely. I am ashamed that I have not wrote your J. B., with the State of Sewall & Lewis affairs, two things have prevented, one is hurry and the other a want of receiving the rents, I have a promise of it when I will remit it him. it requires more attention, as it was wholly conducted by my late uncle, and the matter is not so clear to me.


I will soon as possible send you all N. Eng<sup>d</sup> matters, till time will admit you must Excuse me. I am heartily sorry for the great Burthen laid upon us, we are not able to bear all things, but must submit to higher powers, these Taxes will greatly effect us, our Trade will be ruined, and as it is, its very dull — My best respects to you and Connections. I am very truly

Gent<sup>l</sup>. Your most faithful hble. serv<sup>t</sup>.

MESSRS BARNARDS & HARRISON.

From what we have thus far seen of John Hancock's letters, we must be convinced that a commercial business was conducted largely by correspondence. Many clerks were kept busy making copies of original letters, there being no labor-saving device then in use. The exact date of sailing of a vessel was not at all times easily determined, and letters were prepared and depos-

BILL OF EXCHANGE


 Boston Jan'y 25. 1866 -  
 To the Order of Exchange Bank of London  
 and being paid here on account of the balance due  
 to the said bank by the said Exchange Bank of London  
 the sum of Ten thousand six hundred and thirty  
 five dollars further advice, to account of  
 your order  
 Yours respectfully  
 J. W. Hancock

J. W. HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRUST CO., BOSTON.

ited, and several were frequently sent in the same vessel to one agent.

Under date of May 17, 1765, John Hancock writes:—

I have already wrote you by this opportunity since which I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Capt. Edwards in the ship Adventure is arrived in a Passage of Five weeks from Cowes. / No Acco<sup>t</sup> of Marshall, hope he will be in soon. I am sorry to tell you that the prospect of the sale of the Adventures Cargo is very Indifferent. I will however do my utmost to obtain the best price, but believe I must Dispose of the Lemmons oyl, Bottles & junk at publick Auction: the Coals I may get a Toierable price for. ✕ This Vessel just upon sailing cant enlarge, but that I will use my utmost Endeavour for your Interest, & Dispatch the Ship to So. Carolina as quick as possible. The ship must have a new Foremast as her old one is entirely gone.

I shall soon write you again till when I am,

Your Very Humble Servt.

Four days later, to same agents, Mr. Hancock writes:—

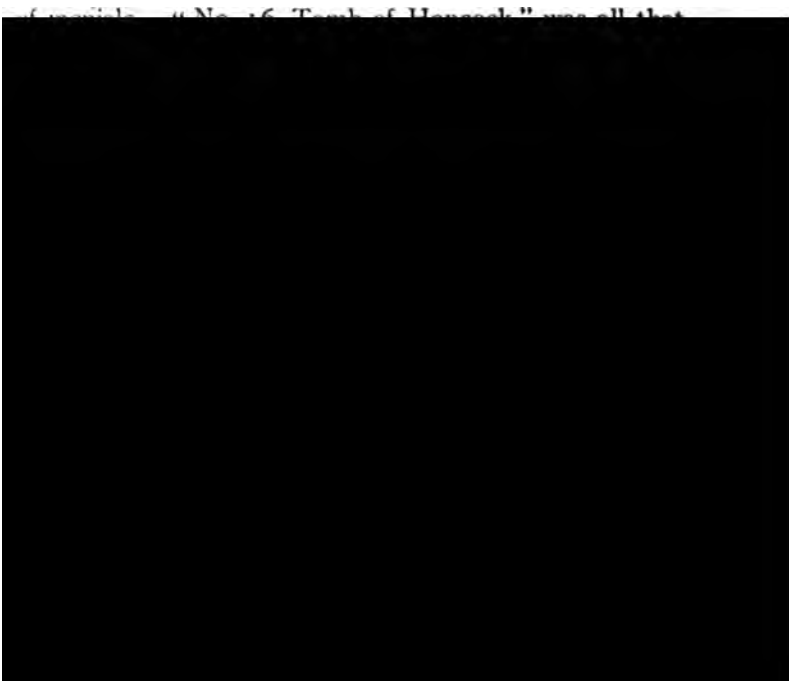
The foregoing confirm copy of my last, since which I have received your favours, by the Capt. Marshall Jarvis & Davis, & duly note their contents. It was very unlucky that Marshall was so long delayed but there is no help for it. Scott was entirely unloaded before Marshall arrived. He is now Floored with tar, waiting for Oyl on which subject I can't say any more at present, not having any advices from Nant<sup>e</sup>, since my last to you. I shall as soon as possible dispatch both him and Marshall on the best Terms I can in which I shall be very cautious.

The Brig Fly, Capt. Farrah in a Gale of wind put away for the West Indies, and arrived at Antigua, and heard she left that place for London on the last of Feby. that suppose she is with you. I fear I shall be a great Loser by her. / You must do the best you can for me, acted quite right with the oyl men, you Contracted with, much better than to enter into the Law.

Your Lemons by Edwards came in very bad order. I fear they will not fetch the first cost, I shall dispose of them as also all the other articles to the best advantage and Endeavor to act most for your Interest in all respects, which has ever been my Study.

I am much obliged for Your Trouble in sending me the man Servant, and for the little articles for my own use, the man appears to be a Sober man, and the articles very agreeable, partic'y, my Silk Cloths, a choice of my own could not have pleased me better, you omitted six pair black Silk Hose which would be glad you would send me.

The servant sent over to Mr. Hancock was doubtless a colored man, and was particularly for his own service, as Mrs. Thomas Hancock had a retinue of negroes willed to her by her husband. We are obliged, however, to conclude that the New England climate did not agree with this servant, for we read in the Granary Burying Ground, on a moss-covered slab: "Frank, servant of John Hancock, Esq., lies interred here, who died 23d of Jan., 1771." We infer that this servant must have been faithful to his master to have merited and received this memorial stone, so uncommon at the graves of that class



I think I have somewhat conducted thereto and I shall ever strive to cultivate our Friendship and promote Your Interests, but re-  
Gentlemen when I find I am wrote to in a manner I think I do  
deserve, and in Terms that I judge you do not write your other  
respondents, I can't help being uneasy, for I will venture to say  
one Person makes larger or more timely remittances than I  
This matter I refer to you, & beg to know why I can't have as m  
indulgence and Credit, as others, for I look upon it that I left Sci  
cient in Your hands even to discharge the cost of the whole Go  
by Marshall.

However to avoid any reflections I now inclose You Harri  
Gray's Bill of Exche on Jasper Mauduct, Esq. dated 21st May  
238. in my favour, value Two Thousand Pounds sterling, W  
paid You will please to Credit my accott<sup>r</sup> therefor, after whic  
beg I may know the state of my accott<sup>r</sup> and that my accott<sup>r</sup> c  
may be sent including every Charge. If you would send my  
count oftener I could better judge & I desire my accott<sup>r</sup> may c  
every six or nine months. I do not want to put any one to  
Inconvenience of advancing money for me.

I would not have you think that I am disposed to enter into  
disputes, farr otherwise, but should be glad to establish myse  
little better than I think I am at present.

I hope soon to hear from you. I shall write you again sho  
when I hope to be able to be more explicit as to oyl. I will  
patch Marshall and Scott as soon as I can.

Whenever I may be usefull I beg you improve me. You  
rely on my best Services. My Sincere wishes attend you, & bel  
me with great Truth,

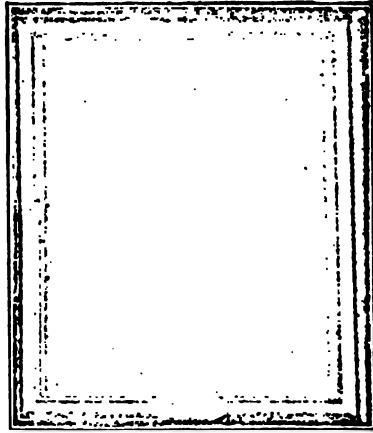
Your real & Faithful Friend & Servant

The above, like others, seems to be a continuous let  
sent in instalments. In it we find that Mr. Hanc  
has been obliged to draw on his deposit with Harri  
Gray, the Province treasurer.

While John Hancock was struggling to keep pe  
with his agents in England, and safely conduct his  
tensive business through the precarious times, the  
subject of discussion in the town was the arbitr  
unconstitutional innovations of Parliament.

The town at length adopted a letter of instructions to their representatives in General Court, in which they spoke of the distress of the trade of the Province, etc.

On June 7 Mr. Hancock writes again to Barnards & Harrison, tells them of the loss of the lemons, poor sale of oil and bottles, and of a more fortunate disposal of the coals. He concludes thus :



I should be glad you

in no demand here. I have therefore come to a resolution to return them to you by Marshall.

The ship Adventure, Capt. Edwards will depart for So. Carolina in two days.

The ship Boston Packett, Capt. Marshall will, I hope, depart for London in eight days.

The brig Lydia will soon follow Marshall. Her oyl is engaged.



## CHAPTER IX

RIVALRY BETWEEN HANCOCK AND ROTCH. JOHN HANCOCK AS A FINANCIAL ADVISER. TRADE WITH MADRID. COMPASSION FOR THE AGED. JOHN HANCOCK'S SHIP LIBERTY AND HER FIRST COMMUNICATION TO LONDON. STAMP ACT A CRUEL HARDSHIP. STAMPS ARRIVE. SEVERE TREATMENT OF OLIVER AND HUTCHINSON. NEW BRIG HARRISON. JOHN HANCOCK WILL NOT BE A SLAVE. HANCOCK MAKES A RECORD FOR POSTERITY.

THE rivalry between Hancock and Rotch comes to light in a letter of July 6, 1765, in which Mr. Hancock writes to his London agents:—

ence as to purchases, and this I cannot always Effect without occasionally drawing, & almost the whole of those bills rest with-you.

The custom of using the Province treasury as a bank of deposit comes out more clearly in a letter of July 6, 1765:—

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of yours of 14 Nov. & 12 Jany. and agreeable to your desire now inclose you the State of the Treasurer's note you left in the care of my late Uncle. I also inclose your account as it stands on his Books, by which you will see you have Credit for the Cash received of Mr. Wallace, and as my late Uncle wrote you he could not get it into the Treasury, it has lain ever since for your order. You will observe that the whole of the note becomes due next June. after which time I don't think it can be continued, as the Province is in no want of Cash, and they have offer of the loan of any sum at five per cent. I should think it would be most for your Interest to order it home, as I could not advise you to put it into the hands of people here. I should judge it too precarious. This, I submit to you, and what ever Resolutions you may take respect'g it, you may depend on a punctual & cheerful compliance from me. The Prize in the New London Lottery, I fear will never be recover'd.

You will please to let me know your determination about your monies & your orders shall be Executed.

My best wishes attend you. I am with Tender of my best Services

Sir,

Your most obedt. hble Servt.

Treasurers Notes belonging to Capt. David Allen left by him in the Care of the late Thomas Hancock Esq. which are now in the hands of John Hancock & lay on acco<sup>t</sup> & Risq. of s<sup>d</sup>. Capt. Allen, viz—

One Note dated 16 <sup>th</sup>	Feby. 1763	pay <sup>d</sup> 20 June 1766	£445
One do " 20	June 1764	" 10 " 1766	140
One do " 30	Mar 1763	" 20 " 1766	123
One do " 6	July 1763	" 20 " 1766	134
			£842

Inst. on above notes Due from the Dates. Capt. David Allen of the Royal. Under Cover to Sr. Tho. Willson Dean Street, So Lo.

On July 21, 1765, Mr. Hancock writes to London agents thus : —

Do send me by Marshall six pounds best Hyson Tea in Canisters & 1 Doz. bottles best Lavender Water.

Again on the same date he writes : —

Since the foregoing agreeable to a former promise I have been obliged to draw on you of this date in favour of the Honble. Thomas Flucker Esq.<sup>1</sup> No. 11, for £250. stg. which you will please to honour and charge to my account.

I now inclose you Harrison Gray Esqr.<sup>2</sup> Bill on Jasper Mauduct Esq. of the date No. 38. in my favour for £1500 stg.

On the following day, in a letter to some agents, Mr. Hancock writes : —

McCloud returned here by way of West Indies. I am much obliged to you for pay'g his ransom the whole account of which I beg you will forward me immediately. If you will please to look over our late Co. Letters of 19<sup>th</sup> Decr 1763, you will find we there desired you to remitt s<sup>d</sup> McCloud at Brest, Five Pounds Sterling and to charge to our account. if I am not mistaken You wrote us

Young man before his Father, whether he had receiv'd it, he told me he had not, and that he never heard from you till Your Letter to him respecting his ransom. I then asked him why he took passage to West Indias & he told me he had not wherewith to carry him to London. You wrote me you had ordered him a supply for that purpose. he says he tarried at Penzance five weeks, wrote you three Letters but had no answer nor no Supply.

I was greatly surprized at it, & it really reflected great Carelessness upon me. I as fully depended you had sent the £5. as also the supplies, at Penzance as that the ransom was paid. I am heartily sorry for it, & should be glad to know the truth of it. I had rather lost more money out of my pocket than it should have so happened as I undertook it out of Compassion to the old people & to serve them but suppose it could not be helped.

I am in haste,

Gent<sup>r</sup> Your Real Friend.

The following letter introduces the reader to a firm at Madeira that becomes of interest as the correspondence advances :—

BOSTON, *July 23, 1765.*

GENT<sup>r</sup> : The long Correspondence that Subsisted between your house and my late Uncle (of whose sudden death you have undoubtedly per, this time heard), induces me to apply to you for my supply of wine from your place not doubting but you will use the same judgment in your choice of it as for my late uncle who had a high opinion of your Fidelity.

I am now, therefore, to desire you will please to send me by the return of this Vessell on the first good opportunity to this place two pipes of the very best Madeira for my own Table. I don't stand at any price, let it be good, I like a rich wine. I need say no more to you but that they are for my own use for their cost you will please to draw Bills on Mess. Barnards & Harrison, Merchts, in London at Thirty days' Sight, which will be duly honour'd mark them H. & I should be glad you would put some private mark on the pipes acquainting me of the same in your Letter as there is danger of their being chang'd among a Cargo. I wish you health and happiness and am

Gent :

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> hble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

MESS. LAMAR, HILL & BISSETT, at Madeira.

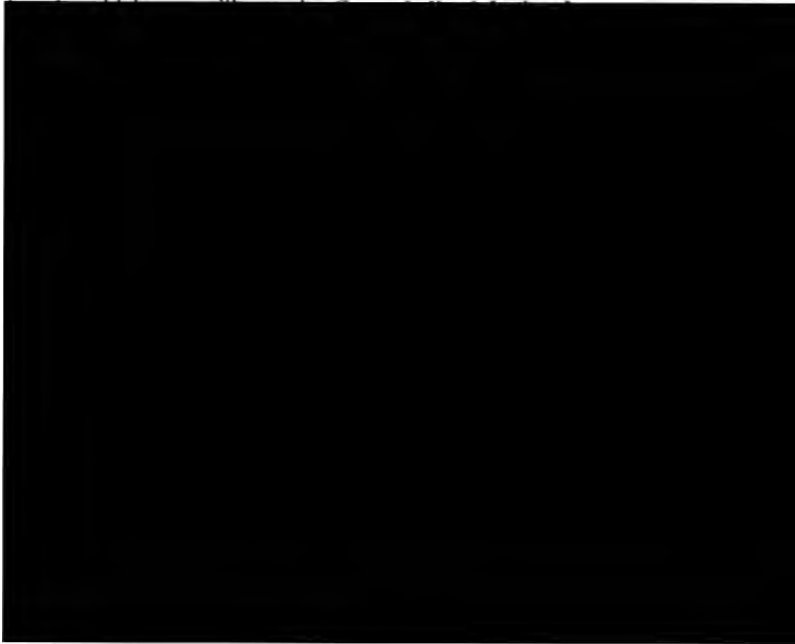
In a letter of Aug. 16, 1765, is seen the record of naming the vessel which stands out so prominently in the history of the opening Revolution:—

I wrote you sometime ago that I had been obliged in the course of my business to take a new ship and that I proposed her for South Carolina. I have since determined to load her for London, and she is now loading fast. She is called the Liberty, Henry Smith, Master, and hope will sail in 20 days to your address. Just as Scott was fitted up, the oyl got in from the River and I thought it best to ship some early by which means am in hopes to obtain a tolerable price therefor. You shall be interested one-half if you please, this ship shall propose to you to be sold and if she will fetch a good price, if not to proceed to New Castle of which more by her. Whalebone is at 3 /£ m<sup>o</sup> at present. I am no purchaser.

As I am loading Smith, oyl ready Money. I have drawn a few Bills on You as at bottom which you will please to honour.

In a letter of Aug. 22, 1765, to his London agents, the undercurrent of Mr. Hancock's feelings bursts forth in the following manner:—

I refer you to the Newspapers for an account of the proceed'gs



I have been so Excessively Busy since Scott sailed that I must once more & for the last time on this account, ask your pardon that I am not now more Explicit. I shall now sit myself down as fast as I can to Compleat our accounts, & forward by Jacobson who will sail in 14 days, you must Excuse me till then.

The following articles please to send & mark H. S.

3<sup>lbs.</sup> deepest Prussian blue.  
 8<sup>lbs.</sup> best U. D. Vermillion.  
 50<sup>lbs.</sup> white Copperas.  
 20<sup>lbs.</sup> umber.  
 1000<sup>lbs.</sup> softest Spanish white.  
 2<sup>Gro.</sup> siz'd Pencils.

I am with unfeigned regard

Gent.

Your most faithfull & oblig'd  
 hble servt.

The state of excitement in Boston is indicated in a letter from Mr. Hancock as follows :—

BOSTON, *Sept.* 11, 1765.

GENT: I have only Time to tell you this, I have drawn on you two Bills viz.

Ann Colvill,	No. 22,	£ 65
Roger Hale, Esq.	" 23,	100

which you will please to honour.

I cannot write now, we are terribly confus'd here. if the Stamp Act takes place we are a gone people. do help us all you can. if the ship stays will write you further, have just receiv'd yours by Daverson, with inclosures, not time to examine.

I am in great haste,

Gent.

Your hble servant.

BARNARDS & HARRISON.

News was received in Boston in July that a quantity of stamped paper had been shipped for America, and early in August a list was published of those who had been appointed to distribute stamps in the colonies.

The name of Andrew Oliver for Massachusetts was among them.

As the arrival of the famous stamps was an event of great moment in the Province, so the letter which records the fact cannot fail of enlisting the attention of readers:—

BOSTON, *Sept.* 30, 1765.

GENTS: Since my last I have receiv'd your favour by Capt. Hulme who is arriv'd here with the most disagreeable Commodity (say Stamps) that were ever imported into this Country & what it carry'd into Execution will entirely Stagnate Trade here, for it is universally determined here never to submit to it and the principal merch<sup>ts</sup> here will by no means carry on Business under a Stamp, we are in the utmost Confusion here and shall be more so after the first of November & nothing but the repeal of the act will righten, the Consequence of its taking place here will be bad, & attended with many



FACSIMILE OF STAMP.

Grievance, and to determine whether Instructions shall be given to the Representatives of the Town in General Assembly for their Conduct at this very alarming Crisis." It was voted that instructions be given, and John Hancock, as a selectman, was one of the committee for that purpose; this work was faithfully done, and our young friend was full of the spirit of the lengthy document. They also chose a committee to draw up and transmit a vote of thanks to those members of Parliament who had labored in opposition to the Stamp Act.

At a town-meeting on the 27th inst., to choose a representative to the General Court, in place of Oxenbridge Thatcher, a prominent lawyer, deceased, John Hancock received several votes; but his friend Samuel Adams was elected. It was at this court, in session in June, that steps were taken which resulted in the Continental Congress. There was great unrest throughout this and the other Provinces. On the 14th of August there had been a decided outbreak in Boston. The stamp-officer, Oliver, was hanged in effigy. A company of patriots assembled, burned the effigy, and destroyed a building in Kilby Street, supposed to be intended for a stamp-office. They then proceeded to vent their ill-directed patriotism by destroying the property of Hon. Andrew Oliver. This was followed on another occasion by attacking the house of Lieutenant-Governor Hutchinson, who was also chief justice. In the mean time, the governor, Francis Bernard, and the council, on Aug. 14, offered a reward for the conviction of the offenders. The town, in open meeting, put itself on record as entirely against any such demonstrations. John Hancock was aware, officially and otherwise, of all this trouble; and he retired to the seclusion of his office,



and wrote to his agents, Barnards & Harrison. The letter was dated Oct. 14, 1765, and, after dwelling at some length upon their running accounts, continued by saying:—

## REPRODUCTION OF LETTER PART OF THIS LETTER.

A thousand Guineas, or a much larger sum, would be no compensation to me to be the first that should apply for a Stamp, for such is the aversion of the people to the Stamp, that it should be sure to lose my property, if not my Life, that Trade must of course stagnate, & indeed, all kind of Business and Navigation must cease, unless some expedient be thought on, w<sup>th</sup> I can't see can take place so as to Remove the Difficulty. This much I thought to mention to you, to let you see some of the ill consequences of this act, & they are what will greatly affect Great Britain in the End, and Trade once lost is not easily Retain'd, you will not mention my name further in these matters, I write thus much, & pray you will use your Influence for us to extract us out of our present State — I should very much like to see you & to see you

*I suppose I shall not be able to get a Letter to you as we shall have no Vessel sail for London after that time.*

*I am in great haste with respect  
your Sincere Friend but an  
Enemy to the Stamps.*

*Pf*

*This Letter I propose to remain in my  
Letter Book as a Standing monument to posterity  
& my Children in particular; that I by no means  
consented to a Submission to this Cruel Act, & that  
my best Representations were not want'g in the matter.*

The new Brig I set up in thirds with you Barker & Burnell & myself, which I have called the Harrison, I have at length Dispatch'd. She sail'd for Nantuckett 11th Inst compleatly fitted for the sea, and as pretty a Vessel & as well Executed as I ever saw a Vessel & I think tolerable Dispatch. I have Recommended to Barker & Burnell to give her the greatest Dispatch in Load'g & as soon as I hear from them Respecting the Cost of the Cargo I shall write you for Insurance.

This Vessel I suppose you will Load back to me in the Spring if possible, wch tho' I question & this Leads me to the most material Subject I have Touch'd upon to you, I need not Tell you I mean the Stamp act, The Ruin of this people must be the Consequence of this act's Taking place. Our Trade here will entirely Stagnate, for it is the united Resolution & Determination of the people here not to Carry on Business under a Stamp, we shall be in the utmost Confusion, here after the 1st Novr & nothing but the Repeal of the act can retrieve our Trade again, Persons who have Vessels here may now Clear them out before the 1st Novr but those that may arrive after, must lay up till the Resolutions of Parliam't be known, if not Repeal'd you may bid Adieu to Remittances for the past Goods, and Trade in future, your Debts cannot be Recover'd here for we shall have no Courts of Justice after the 1st Novr & I now Tell you, & you will find it come to pass that the people of this Country will never Suffer themselves to be made slaves of by a Submission to that D—d act But I shall now open to you my own Determinations.

If Marshal & Scott or either of them (w<sup>ch</sup> is not very probable), should arrive here before the 1st of Novr I can clear them out Loaded or not Loaded, & w<sup>ch</sup> I will do, but if they arrive here after that date, I shall unload them, & Haul them up so we shall have no Stamp masr. nor Stamps Suffer'd to be Distributed w<sup>ch</sup> I pray God may ever be the case my & every Vessell is liable to be Seiz'd, besides it is my invariable opinion that this Act is unconstitutional & cruel the Expense of which we are not able to Support; that I have come to a Serious Resolution not to send one Ship more to Sea nor to have any kind of Connection in Business under a Stamp; that you must not have even the Least Expectation of seeing Marshall or Scott Return to you this Fall. I have oyle now by me, & the Cash p'd for it sufficient to Load Marshall but I will sooner close the whole than Submit to Take a Stamp — nay, I would sooner subject myself to the hardest Labour for a maintenance, than carry on the Business I now do under so great a Burthen, & I am Determin'd as soon as I know that they are Resolv'd to insist on this act to Sell my Stock in Trade & Shut up my Warehouse Doors Thus much I told our Govr the other day, & is what I am absolutely Determin'd to abide by, without some very extraordy intervention, indeed, w<sup>ch</sup> is not likely — I am very sorry for this occasion of writing so boldly, & of being obliged to come to such Resolutions, but the Safety of myself & the Country I have the honor to be a Native of require

greatly affect Great Britian in the End, and Trade once lost is not easily Retriev'd, you will not mention my name perticularly in those matters, I write thus much & pray you will use your Influence for us to Extricate us out of our present State — I should now have Sent my Demand for a Spring Supply of Goods to Come in the Brig<sup>t</sup> Harrison, but upon mature Deliberation I am Resolv'd at least for the present, not to send another Inv<sup>o</sup> to London, or Carry on any Business in that way, as under this additional Burthen of the Stamp Act I cannot carry it on to any profit and we were before Cramp'd in our Trade & sufficiently Burthen'd, that any farther Taxes must Ruin us. . . .

I shall shortly Expect Marshall here, I could wish he might arrive before the 1st Nov<sup>r</sup> when I can clear him out, but otherwise he must lay by, I will Sell you my proportion of Ship & Brig<sup>t</sup> & others if you can get any one may Conduct them, for I will not be made a slave of without my own Consent.

I shall soon write you again & it must be soon, with what papers I can get Ready for after the 1st Nov<sup>r</sup> I suppose I shall not be able to get a Letter to you, as we shall have no Vessell Sail for London after that Time.

I am in great Haste, with Respect

Your Sincere Friend but an enemy to the Stamps.

PS

This Letter I propose to remain in my Letter Book as a Standing monument to posterity & my children in particular, that I by no means consented to a Submission to this Cruel Act, & that my best Representations were not wantg. in the matter. ]

Mr. Drake, in "History of Boston," says of John Hancock, "He was early secured to the patriot side; and, once having taken that elevated and enviable stand, he ever maintained it without wavering."

The tone of the foregoing letters would lead to the conclusion that John Hancock was never wavering in his convictions of duty, regardless of his great wealth which was at stake.

CHAPTER X

PEOPLE REFUSE TO USE STAMPS. LARGE TAX PAID BY THE HANCOCK FIRM. EVIL FOREBODINGS OF NOVEMBER FIRST. SLAVES IN THE COLONIES. BOSTON INSTRUCTS REPRESENTATIVES IN GENERAL COURT. JOHN HANCOCK APPEALS TO HEAVEN. SENDS TO LONDON FOR BOOKS — A GIFT FOR HARVARD COLLEGE. JOHN HANCOCK IN DESPONDENCY. SHIPS GOODS WITHOUT STAMPS. GOODS ORDERED ON CONDITION OF THE REPEAL OF THE STAMP ACT. NO TELEPHONE. RIDES TO LEXINGTON.

The stamps came; but as there was no one having commission to receive them, they were landed, by order of the Governor, at the Castle. The General Court took no action for distributing the stamps, and it was

great exertions in the Late warr, a Debt I know not when we shall discharge, and to comfort us we must have the heavy Burthen of a Stamp Act to grapple with; we are amazingly tax'd here. I believe I may Venture to say that not a man in England in proportion to estate pays the Tax that I do. What would a Merchant in London think of paying £400 Stlg ann. which my late uncle paid to this Province & county; his Taxes from the year 1757 to 1763 amott. to £2600 Stg., and I now pay yearly to this Province & county near £300 Sterlg., besides all duties, Imposts, Ministers & many other which are additional Taxes, and pray do you think we ought to be further Taxed or that we are able to Support the Grievous Burthen of the Stamp Act. No, Gentlemen, there is not cash enough here to support it, and pray where are we when our Cash is gone or indeed where will you obtain your remittances, certainly if our Interest will not arouse the people on your Side, your own I trust will, and once stop our Trade, you must fail of your remittances.

*Very ing*  
 Next week the first of November comes, the consequences of which will be an entire stagnation of trade. Navigation must cease, and I hope eternally will, rather than submit to so cruel, Grievous and inhuman act. I speak for myself. I never will carry on Business under such great disadvantages & Burthen. I will not be a slave. I have a Right to the Libertys & Privileges of the English Constitution, & I as an Englishman will enjoy them. We shall be in a most shocking situation after the 1st of November, & our state entire confusion, and nothing will reinstate us but the repeal of this act.

You cannot expect any orders for the goods in the spring, at least not many; for my part I shudder for the consequences. I cannot, however, but have some hopes that the Parliament will relieve us & give us a free trade which will enable us to pay our Debts to Great Britian, where in short all our money centres. But without Trade we nor no Community can submit. Do exert yourselves for us. It is your own Interest as much as ours. I hope Marshall will arrive before the 1st of November, otherwise he cannot return to you. I have the Oyl by me. I will sooner suffer the loss of it than be a slave.

I shall write you fully by the going ship. Coffin in the schooner is not arriv'd, by him Expect to hear from you.

I am in much haste, can't now add but that I am with perfect Esteem

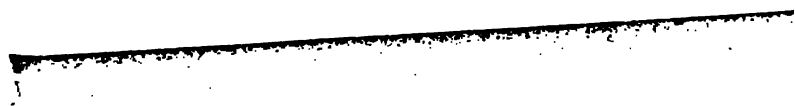
Gent<sup>l</sup> Your faithful hble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

BARNARDS & HARRISON.



V. JOHN HANCOCK AT LEXINGTON.

75-71





The term "*slave*," so freely used by Mr. Hancock, was a common expression of the time. In the town's instructions to their Representatives in General Court, we read, "If taxes are laid upon us in any shape, without our having a legal representation where they are made, are we not reduced from the character of free subjects to the miserable state of tributary slaves?"

Negro slavery was a custom which prevailed at this time very generally among the more wealthy families of the colony, especially in Boston. Several attempts were made to put a stop to it, but to no avail. A Tory writer of the time said there were two thousand slaves in Boston.

The condition of these negro menials may have occasioned the expression to which reference is made.

In the instructions to their Representatives the town further proposed that, "As the Province still lies under a very grievous burthen of debt, occasioned by the war with France, frugality should be strongly recommended

Cash must go to answer the Expenses of the Act, wch in two or three Years will fall of itself, as there will be no money left to Defray the Expenses of its further Continuance. But with Respect to myself, I will be the last man that will submit to Take one, I however hope things will not be carried to such an ill judg'd extremity as to Enforce the Act, as the fatal Consequences of it will be as much felt in the End, by Great Britain, as by us; you can never expect to Receive your Remittances from hence. & you may depend we shall be obliged to Live without your Manufactures wch strictly speaking we can do without. You must exert yourselves for us & I hope soon to hear that the Parliament will Listen to our Decent Remonstrances, & not only Repeal this Act but Redress many other Grievances we Labour under wch we are not able to support.

Pray send us good Tidings, we are & shall be a very Distressed people, but Beg we may be Reliev'd.

I am Gent<sup>n</sup>

Your Faithfull Friend.

MESSRS. BARNARDS & HARRISON.

It is a relief to the reader, as it must have been to John Hancock, to find another subject besides that of the Stamp Act occupying his mind. It appears in a letter dated Oct. 28, 1765, to Thomas Longman:—

It is some time since I heard from you with the Magazines &c. wch Beg in future you will please to be Regular in sending. I cannot tell the state of my accot<sup>t</sup> with you. I desire you will please to call on Mess. Barnards & Harrison & Receive of them whatever Ballance may be due to you. Give them your Rect<sup>t</sup>, & send me your accot<sup>t</sup> Ballanced.

I now inclose you a large Inv<sup>o</sup> of Books, which I desire you will please to send me, pack'd in the best manner and marked I. H. I must Recommend to you to be very carefull in the collect of these Books, that they be the best Editions & well Bound, & that you be particular in sending every Book mentioned in the Inclosed Inv<sup>o</sup>, if to be had at any price. I must also further Recommend to you that each & every book be neatly Lettered & as there are several Pamphlets, wrote for in this Inv<sup>o</sup>, I desire instead of their Coming in pamphlets, wch are apt to be soon Defaced by use, that you will be mindful to Bind as many together as will make a neat volume & let

them be all sent in that way. Lettering on the Back, that they may be known. Upon the whole, I Recommend to you that the whole of these Books be very neat, well chosen, & Charged at the Lowest prices, as the whole of these Books are a present from me to our College Library in Cambridge.

These Books, I shall hope you will be able to send me in the Spring. When ever they are ready to ship, I desire you will apply to Mess. Barnards & Harrison, who will give you Directions to Ship them, in a Vessel of mine. . . . These Books you will pack in Trunks & consign them to me. Send me Inv<sup>o</sup> of Cost, & write me the Terms of Credit & you may Rely I shall make you a punctual Remittance, therefore, if it does not suit you to put up these Books, you will please to Give this letter & Inv<sup>o</sup> to Barnards & Harrison who will send them to me.

I shall be glad of all opportunities to render you or your Friends any services here, & am with Compliments to you & Mr. Longman,

Sir

Your most obed. Humble Servt.

You will acknowledge the Rect. of this & pray use your Endeavours that the Books may be sent in the Spring. ]

By a vote of the President and Fellows of Harvard

vard College; and has continued until the present time, the firm name being at present Longmans, Green, & Co., their London address being the same as it was one hundred and seventy-two years ago — Paternoster Row.

The sign of the ship has been in continuous use as a trade-mark of the firm since it served as a sign under which the first Thomas Longman did business, and furnished books to the dealers in Provincial Boston. (Appendix I.)

The second letter to this firm is under date of Nov. 16, 1768. In this Mr. Hancock informs Thomas Longman that George Haley, his London agent, will settle his account with interest, "which is just, as the bill has been due for an unreasonably long time."

With the many cares of private and public nature engrossing John Hancock, he finds time to attend to business for Thomas Longman. It appears in the following letter: —

BOSTON, *May 18th, 1770.*

SIR: Your favours of Dec. 2<sup>d</sup> 1769, & Jan'y 3<sup>d</sup> 1770 are now before me, & duly note the Contents. In Consequence of the Rect- of the former, as Mr. Mein was absent, I immediately attached everything I could find of his Effects for the benefit of you & Wright & Gill & the matter is now in the Law. The Effects are in the Hands of the Sheriff, and as soon as it has gone thro' the Law, & the Effects turn'd into money, the neat proceeds shall be remitted you, and you will determine the settlement between you and Messrs. Wright & Gill. Tho' I fear even the Whole of his Effects will fall vastly short of the Debts, but I have got all & could have no more.

You will please, as I am now greatly hurried, to present my respects to Mess Wright & Gill & acquaint them. I will render them every service in my power & will write them by next opportunity. Cannot You get further Security of Mr. Mein in London. You may rely I will do all in my power for your Interest in this or any other matter.

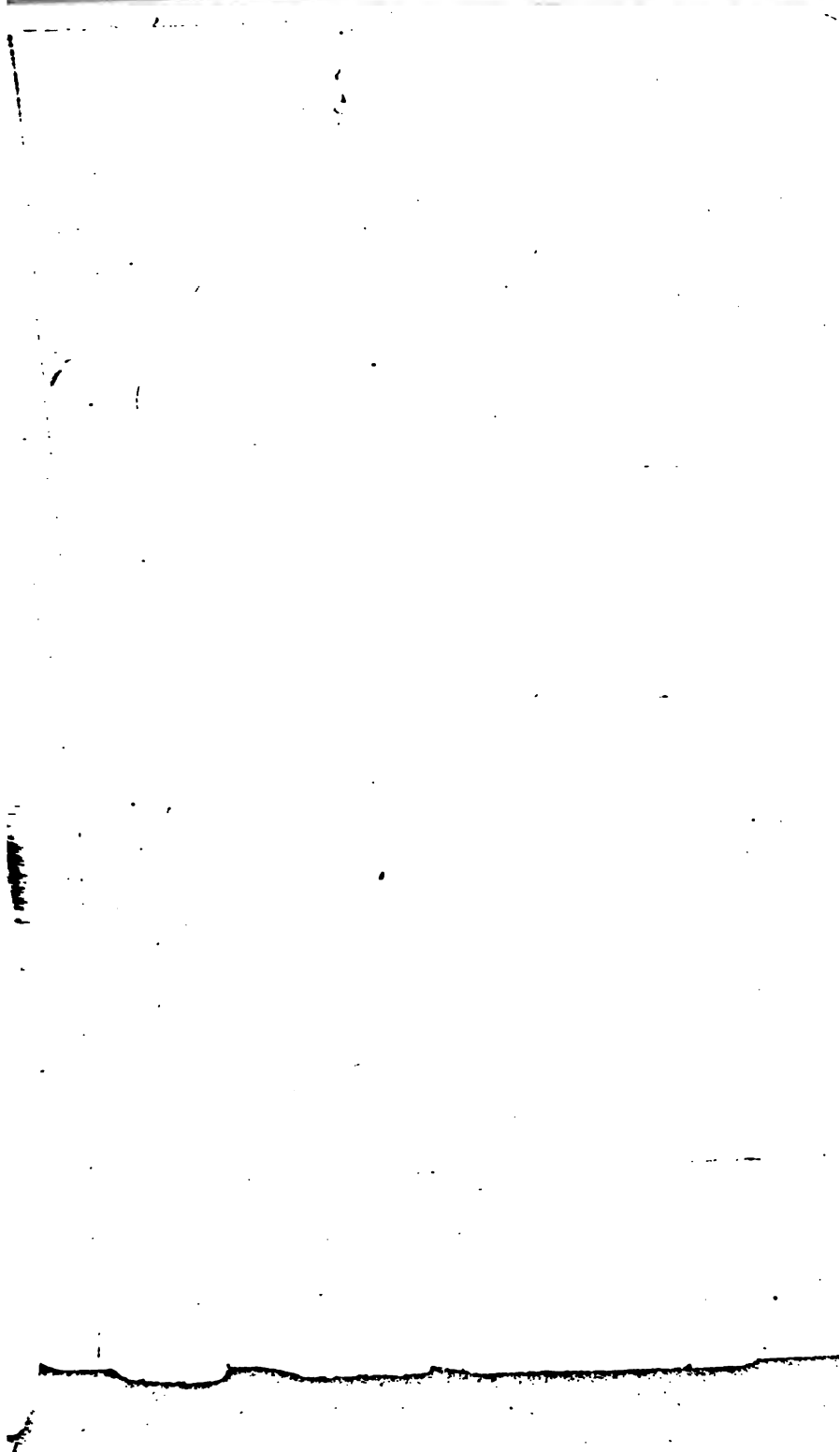
I am with Great Respect Sir,

MR. THOMAS LONGMAN.

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.



MANSE, BEDFORD.  
By Nicholas Bowers, 1729-1754.



Mr. John Mein, above mentioned, was an extensive bookseller of the time in Boston. His place was known as the London Bookstore, and he claimed to carry a stock of ten thousand volumes. He is credited with having established the first circulating-library in the town. Drake says his shop was on the north corner of what is now Franklin and Washington Streets, where, in addition to books, he sold Irish linens, etc. John Mein was connected with the publication of the *Boston Chronicle*, the first semi-weekly in New England. This was an organ of the Loyalists, soon became unpopular, and was suspended in 1770. Mein was not in sympathy with the patriots, and so conducted himself as to become very obnoxious. The rhymester of the time, aroused by the acts of this bookseller, wrote the following:—

Mean is the man, M—n is his name,  
Enough he's spread his hellish fame;  
Infernal Furies hurl his soul  
Nine million times from Pole to Pole.

oner in the King's Bench for them. . . . Mr. Mein had no real estate here, my attachments were on the Shop, Books & the materials in the printing office which are small. What the amount of these attachments will be it is impossible to determine, until they are sold, which can not be until the Law has had its course. Books are very dull sale here.

On Dec. 3, 1770, Mr. Hancock sends to Mr. Thomas Longman for more books for himself, and in April, 1771, writes the following :—

SIR: Your favr by Capt. Scott, I duly Rec'd with the Box of Books in good order, as also my acco<sup>ts</sup>, which I shall soon order you payment of. I note what you say Respecting Mr. Mein. His conduct towards you is insufferable, & I am inform'd, he with his associates have taken great Liberties with me, but I Despise them, being confident that their case and false representations can do me no Injury. I wish I could see a copy of Mein's affidavit and hope you will be able to obtain it. I think you have acted very right towards Mein. You have an undoubted claim to Security & you will find on the settlement of the matter here, it will fall vastly short of their Expectation & manifest their suggestion to be utterly groundless.

Nothing has occurred in Mein's affairs since my last to you on that subject. I am in hopes soon to Receive your answer thereto with the necessary Inclosures, as soon as I am possess'd of them you may Rely I will prosecute the affair to the end.

I am with Tender's of Service & Respects, to you & Mrs. Longman,

Sir

Your very humble Servt.

MR. THOMAS LONGMAN.

Mr. Hancock reports progress from time to time, and on Jan. 31, 1772, writes :—

I am now to Acquaint you that I have Recover'd final Judgment in your & Mess. Wright & Gill case, against Mein & Execution is levied upon the Books &c. & the Appraisers will finish the appraisement this Day, after which I will take the most prudent steps to convert the whole into money & as soon as Realized shall be remitted to you. I am confident the whole of Mr. Mein's Effects will fall vastly short of your Demands & this I mentioned to you

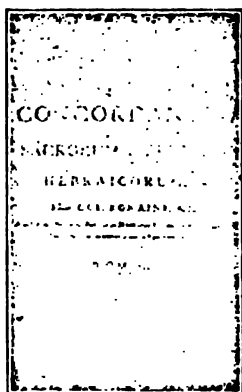


long ago & Evinces the propriety of your Conduct in arresting him in England. The Gent<sup>s</sup> appraisers are Mr. Edwards, Mr. Knox, & Mr. Langdon, all whom I believe you know, have been very faithfull. I shall advise you as I go on & send you the Catalogue of the Books & everything relative to this matter.

The Hancock letters to Longman furnish us with evidence of more ways in which the political state of affairs had its demoralizing effect. Mein, as a poor debtor, perhaps made so by his stand on public matters, fled to London, where he vented

his wrath against Hancock and the leading patriots.

He was but one among the many sufferers who left the country, although with less



BOOK TITLE.

GENT<sup>l</sup>: I wrote you some time ago for a few articles w<sup>ch</sup> no doubt you will send. Those Articles I fear, will be the last I shall import as our Grievances are so heavy & I may say cruel, that Trade here must Stagnate. I flatter myself, considering the Amazing Taxes we pay here for the support of Governmt, that the Parliam<sup>t</sup> of Great Britian would have been rather induced to have relieved us, than to have added to our Burthens. I think I may Venture to say that not a man in England, in proportion to estate pays so great a Tax as I do & people in general here pay heavier Taxes in proportion than the people of England. We can very ill support so cruel an act as the Stamp Act. in short there is not a sufficiency of money among us to support it three years, & what will become of us when our Trade and money is gone? It is such an act as I hope in God will never be executed here; for my own part, upon Serious and mature consideration, I am invariably Determined not to carry on business under a stamp, nor ever subject myself to be a slave without my own Consent. It seems to be the United Resolutions of the whole Continent not to submit to this cruel Act. The consequence of its taking place must be the Ruin of us. & I think we are a people worth saving & our Trade so advantageous to those who Conduct it on your side worth keeping, I however hope the Parliament from the Remonstrances they may Receive will Relieve us & I hope soon to hear a Repeal of the act. if not we are a gone people. Our Trade must cease & Great Britian will finally feel the Bad effects. We shall not be able to take of your Manufactures & we can do without them for my part under such Burthens. I will never Import a single manufacture of Great Britain nor carry on my Business under a Stamp to enrich I know not who. I beg you with the other mercht<sup>s</sup> would use your Influence to extricate us & I doubt not on such Representation we shall be Relieved. . . . If at any time I may render you or your friends any service here, I beg you freely to Command me.

I am with sincere esteem

Gent<sup>l</sup>. Your faithful & obed. servt.

The foregoing letter was written while there was fresh in the mind of John Hancock the great demonstration of Nov. 1, when more effigies were hanged, and when bells were tolled, while vessels in the harbor displayed their colors at half-mast. Hancock, with other merchants who

were getting vessels ready for sea, took out their papers before Nov. 1, regardless of the date of use, thereby avoiding stamped clearances. On Nov. 8, Governor Bernard prorogued the General Court to Jan. 15. But a bill for the relief of the people was in the hands of a committee when the court rose. The following explains how a vessel went to sea from Hancock wharf:—

BOSTON, Dec. 21, 1765.

GENTS: This I hope you will receive by the ship Boston Packet, John Marshall, commar., which is now fully loaded with 6yl, & have cleared him out at the Custom house, the officers certifying that no Stamps are to be had, which is actually the case, & you may rely the people on the Continent will never consent to the Grievous imposition of the Stamp Act. Our Custom house is now open as usual & clearance taken without stamps. That I apprehend there will be no risque on your side, here. I am under no apprehensions. Should there be any Difficulty in London as to Marshalls clearance, You will please to represent the circumstances that no stamps could be obtained and we cannot obtain a more Regular Clearance. In which case I think I am to be justified, & am not liable to a seizure,

The above letter was written soon after the public demonstration of Dec. 17, when Andrew Oliver was made to appear under the Liberty-tree, at the corner of Essex and Washington Streets, and take his oath that "he had never taken any measures to act in the office of stamp-master, and that he would never do so, directly or indirectly." In the company of officials who witnessed the act was John Hancock.

This episode at the Liberty-tree was but one of many experiences that occurred to hinder the young merchant in preparing letters before the sailing of the Boston Packet. A warrant had just been posted at the Town House, calling a town-meeting; and the selectmen dropped in after business hours to the Hancock counting-house to discuss the all-absorbing topic, embodied in an article of the warrant. It was late in the afternoon of that December day; and as they drew around the open fire, who should enter but Samuel Adams. The company drew back; and the circle was enlarged to admit another chair, placed by the servant, to which the newcomer was conducted. It needed but the light of the candle to reveal to all that the last caller had serious purposes in mind, for his lips were never more firmly set than at this moment. The young merchant did not fail to extend a cordial greeting to Mr. Adams, although he had been the successful candidate over him in the recent election of representatives to the General Court. The excitement of the hour was not so great as to cause the merchants to forget the ordinary courtesies of society; and they all took a pinch from Hancock's gold souvenir box, and snuffed to the contempt of George III.

"If we pass that memorial to-morrow," said Mr.

Adams, "we must choose a committee of our best legal men to present and enforce it. It is useless to petition the Governor and Council unless we have some emphasis behind it."

This met with a ready approval on the part of each of the selectmen and other gentlemen present. The memorial, roughly drawn, was already in the side pocket of Mr. Adams's snuff-brown seedy waistcoat. It was freely discussed before the company left the merchant to conclude his half-written letters.

No private business deterred Mr. Hancock from a prompt appearance at Faneuil Hall the next morning. The memorial was passed after a hot discussion on the floor of that famous building. It set forth that the Courts of Law had been shut up, for which "no just and legal reason could be assigned." The petitioners "humbly" requested "that his Excellency in Council, with whom the executive power was constitutionally lodged, would give direction to the several courts and

the two days of adjournment, John Hancock applied himself to his letters.

To London : —

I am now to acquaint you that I am one-half owner of the Brig Industry, with Paul Bunker, gone to your address, Hezekiah Bunker master, and you will please to credit my account with you for one-half the freight she may make, as also credit my account for one-half the produce of Tar, Pitch, Oyl, and Staves, &c, shipped by Paul Bunker on board sd. brig. Since the foregoing was wrote, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the brig Lydia, Captain Scott, arrived here the 15th instant, the only vessel from London since Marshall. No account of Bruce, Davis, Jenkins, Daverson nor Jarvis, who sailed before Scott. ' Our brig Lydia is certainly a fine sailing vessel & very Lucky. By the Lydia I am favored with yours of 23d of October, inclosing Bill of Lading & Invoice for my goods on board him. I am extremely sorry you did not ship my Lemons on Marshall, as I should then have got 60 stg. & Box whereas, now you have sent them in Scott, they will not fetch me 2 per cent. I wish you would be so good as always to ship me the whole of my orders as I have always a reason for my conduct and order which is only known to myself.

I note that my Ship Liberty was safe arrived with you, & am glad her cargo was like to meet so good a sale. I wish you may be able to get a freight for the Liberty to some port or other, & I should be glad for this place, tho' I see no great prospect. I wish I had ordered Fifty Tons of Hemp in her but I doubt not you will do your utmost for my Interest.

I have heretofore wrote you so largely & expressed my Sentiments so freely on the Subject of the Stamp Act that I think I need not add more to convince you that it is highly disagreeable to the whole continent, nay further that they will never submit to it. You can well judge from the account you have long e'er this Receiv'd from America how we are circumstanced and should have been glad of your opinion on the Subject. Pray write me by all ways & opportunities how things are like to turn.

These letters give us a glimpse into the cares of John Hancock. We see somewhat of the extent of his foreign trade, which, with his domestic business, must

have been very extensive; and no stenographer sat at his left hand to catch his dictations between calls, but very many of his letters must have been penned with his own hand, although an assistant may have mended the pens.

Leaving his letters still open, John Hancock makes haste to Faneuil Hall to attend the adjourned meeting, when the report of the legal committee is presented and voted unsatisfactory, and the meeting adjourned to Dec. 26. The merchant had time to complete his letters. With the heat of the town-meeting discussion upon him, and the gibes of those who opposed the action of the town to goad him, he takes his pen and writes:—

I can only further say that I pray your best influence for us. Nothing will quiet and re-instate us but the entire repeal of this cruel Stamp Act, and pray God grant us that relief.

Later he writes:—



I cannot carry on my business to any advantage & I cannot be a Slave to enrich Placemen.<sup>1</sup>

It is not the telephone that has occasioned the apparent repetitions in the foregoing letter, but the calls of such men as Samuel Adams, who only make the writer more determined; and he adds sentences for emphasis after each retires. ] Who that has compassion for a nervous, overworked merchant of these days, during the uncertainty of tariff legislation, can fail to sympathize with this young merchant, as in those early months of his entire dependence upon his own judgment, his uncle being dead, he faces the manifold cares of the Hancock business? ^  
P

In addition to all that we have thus far seen was the care of the real estate and the great home. There was solicitude for his honored aunt, so suddenly bereaved of her noble husband; the negro slaves willed to her were quick to know that "Massa Hancock" was no more. The stock of cattle that grazed over the pasture on Beacon Hill needed the oversight of an interested eye, or they would rapidly depreciate in value. X Who could have thought of envy as he watched the Hancock chariot roll out of town, conveying the honored widow and her overworked nephew to Lexington to get a little rest with Parson Clark and Mrs. Jonas Clark at the family hearthstone.

<sup>1</sup> Placemen, those who hold positions under the government. In this case the officers sent over from England to enforce revenue laws.

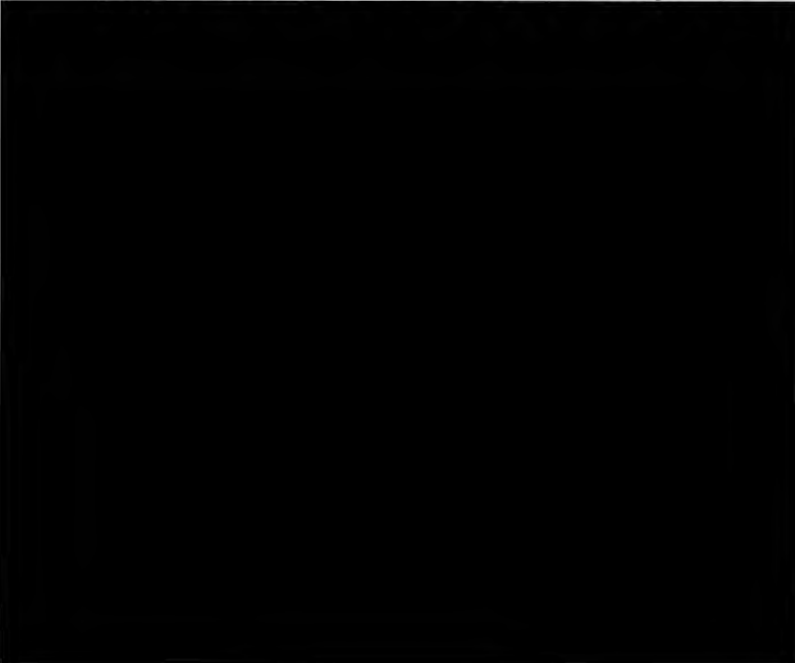


## CHAPTER XI

EVER READY TO AID WORTHY YOUNG MEN. HANCOCK  
NEGLECTS HIS OWN BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF HIS  
COUNTRY. A GENERAL BUSINESS AGENCY. LIST OF  
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATED WITH HANCOCK. ORDERS GOODS  
IN CASE THE STAMP ACT IS REPEALED. "HANCOCK AND  
HIS CREW." LOSS BY WRECK. COLONEL HENRY BROM-  
FIELD. RICHARD CLARK. HANCOCK IN TOWN-MEETING.  
GARRISON SUPPLIES.

JOHN HANCOCK, in the midst of all his burdens, was  
ever ready to aid deserving young men who showed a  
talent for business. By the Briton he sends to Bar-  
nards & Harrison the following:—

By Captain Scott, as I have not time now, I shall send you an



John Hancock has the added annoyance of being frequently reminded by his agents abroad that he is behind in his accounts, and that remittances are overdue. In reply to one such he says:—

I have been for some time past engaged in public matters with respect to the Redress of our present Grievances. So that I am prevented fulfilling my promise of sending all accounts by this. They shall be sent by Scott and Bunker. Our Custom House is now open without the use of Stamps, & we are in hopes the Courts of Justice will be opened shortly and things go on the usual way. I hope there will be no difficulty with respect to the Marshall clearance. If the Stamp Act should be laid aside, You will send all my goods, & pray let them be of the best kind.

Inclosed you have Mary Baker's Certificate for four months Pension, £6. 13. 4, when paid you will please to pass to my credit.

By the foregoing it is seen that Mr. Hancock interested himself in securing from government a pension for the widow Mary Baker.

The following affords a glimpse of that famous lawyer, James Otis, as he enters the counting-room at Hancock's store, and presents his bill for legal services, Mr. Hancock having employed his friend and neighbor, Otis, to attend to some business for a friend in London:—

In our Company Letter of 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1763, we Inclosed you Mr. Otis' Receipt for cash p<sup>d</sup>. him Expences etc. for account of Arthur Jones, and desired you to receive it of Mr. Jones, and Credit our account but on looking over Your acco<sup>t</sup> I find no credit for it, & as I have not included it in Mr. Jones' account now sent him, I inclose you my Bill on Mr. Jones for £4. Stg. amt. of cash p<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Otis, which you will please to get paid and credit my account for the same.

You must Excuse me that I cannot send you all accounts by this, I have not been able, we have been terribly confus'd here, but hope we shall soon be redress'd. I have not yet had time to examine the accounts you sent, but shall finish all matters to go by Scott.

Other men call in time to secure Hancock's attention to other business before the sailing of the vessel, witnesseth the following :—

Inclos'd is a power of attorney to your G. H. from Sam<sup>l</sup> & Ebr Brown of this Town, as also a Note of hand due from T. Jas Gruchy of Gurnsey for £53. 17. 8. Lawfull money. I take the Liberty to pray the favour of your G. H. to obtain payment thereof, which will much oblige the persons. I shall esteem a favour, when recd, You will please to pass the amt. to my credit and send me advice of it with the Charges, attending that I may pay the Browns.

My best wishes attend you & I am with unfeigned Truth,

Gent,

Your real Friend & obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.

The appended paragraph affords a suggestion of the extent of John Hancock's business, and recalls the names of merchants and firms who constituted the business element of Boston at the close of 1765, or as English merchants were allied with those of Boston.

Bills drawn on you, not before advis'd of, & which you will

I think I should not be charg'd  $\frac{1}{2}$  Cr on all the Bills, as one half is for purchase here for your acco<sup>ts</sup>.

MESSRS. BARNARDS & HARRISON.

Edward Wigglesworth was an importer of British and India goods, and kept in Marlboro Street.

Others have appeared in this correspondence, and subsequent allusions are made to several of them.

Under the date of Dec. 21, 1765, Hancock writes to Devonshire & Reeves thus :—

I have sent you so fully my sentiments on the subject of the Stamp Act that I think I need not add more to convince you that it's highly disagreeable to the whole Continent, & I have strong hopes that the Parliament will relieve us.

Inclos'd I send you small order for Goods to be sent me by the first Spring Ship in case the Stamp Act is repeal'd, but if the act be not repeal'd. I must desire you will not send me one article in the Invoice, this is in consequence of the United Resolutions of the Merchants here & the other Trading Towns, & I have wrote to all my Correspondents in London to the same Effect. if the Stamp Act is repeal'd do let the goods be well put up & charg'd at the lowest price for which I will make you a punctual remittance.

I wish you health & happiness & am

Gent<sup>l</sup>.

Your most obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

The adjourned town-meeting of Dec. 26 was held, and its action, with others, had a great effect ; and the final result was, that the courts did proceed without stamps, excepting the Probate Court at Boston, of which Lieutenant-Governor Hutchinson was judge. He soon resigned ; and Governor Bernard, after some delay, appointed Foster Hutchinson. He was ready to comply with the sentiments of the patriots. "Hancock and his crew," as they were derisively called in England and among the Loyalists on this side of the water, had a

powerful influence at this time of the Revolutionary period. . No more trying winter can be imagined than this of 1765-1766. Business was largely suspended, and all was uncertainty; no goods were ordered from abroad unless accompanied with the one proviso, the repeal of the Stamp Act. There were foes from within as well as from without. There were not wanting many wealthy, honored people, who sincerely believed that the so-called patriots were wrong, and were bringing ruin upon a happy and prosperous class of the subjects of the king. Honored pastors denounced these bold acts from their pulpits, and fervently prayed for God's mercy upon the misguided peo-



On Jan. 22, 1766, he writes to his London agents :—

I wish you would give me the earliest notice in the Spring how you think the Price of oyl & Bone will Govern next Summer as also Pott Ashes, & wch Sort of Oyl You would advise to be largest Concern'd in, as I am determin'd the Coming Year (please God I live) to be more largely Concern'd in oyl, Bone & Pottash than ever, If you can Advise the least prospect it may answer, I shall however abide by Your Advices, but am Determined to push in these Concerns & not have it in so many hands & should be glad to know Your inclinations as to a concern. I suppose You would be fond of, and in the half: I shall ship none in Comp<sup>a</sup> with Folger, except what goes in the Boston Packett of wch You will duly advise me. Do Just as You please, but I would not have You open Concerns with any others in that Branch, as it will hurt the whole, & I will Venture to say no man here can command more oyl or so much as myself & You may rely I shall always purchase on the best Terms, as I pay my Cash on the Delivery & that will always Command the Markett. / I am sorry to tell you that I had the misfortune to have a Load of Oyl cast away on the Back of Cape Codd. Vessell entirely lost, but had the good luck to save almost all the Oyl, which was put on Board another vessell, but the wind being at this season to the No. West, She is not yet up, but hope she may soon be here. I only wait for that oyl to Dispatch Scott wch will be up the first Southerly wind. The vessel that brought up part of the oyl on b'd Marshall was Cast ashore on Cape Codd, but luckily got off without much Damage.

Agreeable to a former promise, I have been obliged to draw on You a few Bills, as at Bottom in fav<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Phillips for Mr. Bromfield who was a passenger in Marshall, & in fav<sup>r</sup> Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Gardiner, who is passenger in this vessell, as they Rest with You. I must beg You will duly honor them.

Mr. Henry Bromfield, above mentioned, was later known as Colonel Bromfield. He was a prominent merchant of the time, and made frequent trips to England in the interests of his business. He was connected with the Fayerweather family by an early marriage, and later with the Clark family through marriage with a daughter of Richard Clark, a merchant of distinction

in Boston. The Clarks had a store in King (State) Street. Richard Clark was one of the consignees of the "obnoxious tea," and was obliged to retire for safety to the Castle at the time of the tea-party. Bromfield, to escape trouble, which he plainly saw was inevitable, purchased an estate in Harvard, and retired to it soon after the opening of the Revolution. He never gave up the Continental costume, but always adhered to his large powdered wig, square brown coat and vest, with broad pockets and lapels, black small-clothes or breeches, nice silk stockings, silver knee and shoe buckles, and carried a gold-headed cane. He commanded the respect of the people of the retired town of Harvard, where he is still pleasantly remembered. When he left the society of John Hancock and other merchants of the day, he took with him a negro body servant, Othello, or "Thurlo" as he was better known. This slave formed a very strong attachment for his master ; but

at Harvard may be read, on a well-kept stone at an isolated grave, the following:—

OTHELLO,  
THE FAITHFUL FRIEND OF,  
HENRY BROMFIELD  
CAME FROM AFRICA ABOUT 1760,  
DIED 1813, AGED ABOUT 73.

Colonel Bromfield's grave is in King's Chapel Burying-ground, Boston. The family monument is, like that of the Hancock family, at Lexington.

John Hancock finds it difficult to collect the bills belonging to the estate of his deceased uncle; and in this letter of Jan. 2, 1766, he writes to his agents:—

I should be very glad you would endeavor to obtain payment of the Bills sent you by my late Uncle long ago— say Shirley's, Gorhams, & many others, I can't but think the Government would pay Shirley's Bill if applied to. Do use Your Endeavours for me, for w<sup>ch</sup> I shall be much oblig'd, it is hard I should lose them.

I am in great hopes to despatch Scott in ten days; in short, we are in such an unsettled state & in so much confusion that it is impossible to sit down quietly to do Business. But I sincerely hope we shall soon be re-instated in our former Situation by the Repeal or setting aside that unconstitutional, cruel & D—d Stamp Act, w<sup>ch</sup> has done the Colonies more Injury than will be Recovered in many years. pray use your Influence for us. By Scott I shall send you an Invo. of goods for the full supply of a shop to come, if the Stamp Act be repealed.

I wish you the compliments of the season & am with the most perfect esteem,

Gentm., Your Real friend & most faithful Humble servt.

The adjourned town-meeting was much more quiet and peaceful. It was voted that the representatives of the town in General Assembly use their influence that justice be duly administered in the counties throughout the Province, and also use their influence that proper



inquiry be made into the conduct of any who have aided the Stamp Act. The meeting then dissolved. This relieved the selectmen, and John Hancock had more time to devote to his own affairs. Ever ready for any hopeful business venture, he continued a line pursued by his lamented uncle. It appears in the following letter:—

BOSTON, *Janry* 16th, 1766.

The delay of the Returns of the Survey of the Provisions at Chignecto & Annapolis and of sending to me the Condemned Provision, before web I could not have completed Your accounts, has been the occasion that I have not till now wrote & Transmitted your accts. web circumstance I hope will plead my excuse with You. . . . I also enclose your acct. of supplies for your contract of 500 men in Nova Scotia and charges attending it to June 25th. I enclose Your acct. Ballance due me £1340, 3-8. sterling for web sum I have drawn a set of Bills of Exchange on You in favor of Messrs. Barnards & Harrison, merchts., in London, which you will please to honor and balance the commissions authorized between us. I have supplied provisions to the Garrison to carry on your contract, on the new agreement & shall continue it, till one of us gives the notice Specified in the article for an alteration, and I am now to acquaint

## CHAPTER XII

HANCOCK STARTS A YOUNG MAN IN BUSINESS. BOLDLY DECLARES HIS RIGHTS. INTRODUCES WILLIAM BOWES. HE SOLICITS BUSINESS. MERCHANTS IN LONDON FEEL THE BUSINESS DEPRESSION. UTTERANCES OF THE PRESS. LIBERTY TREE. HANCOCK ON COMMITTEE OF RESOLUTIONS FOR TOWN OF PLYMOUTH.

In a letter of Jan. 18 to Barnards & Harrison, he says he has purchased a large quantity of naval stores for the garrison at Nova Scotia, and adds:—

I hope the Brig. will arrive safe & meet a good market. pray obtain the best price for the whalebone. it is very good. I have had it by me for some time, I hope it will net a good profit. . . . I also enclose Your acct. of amt. of Boston Packett's last cargo, in thirds with you Folger & Starbuck & myself amt. to £3820, 2. 7. Lawfull money, one third the produce of wch you will pass to the Credit of my acct. £955, 0. 7½ sterl'g being cash paid by me for your third cost of Boston Packetts Cargo in Boston.

He notes the purchase of the brig Lydia "at £982 13s. 9d., with charges of £61 12s. 9d., making the whole cost complete for the seas £1044 6s. 6d." Of another plan to start a young man in business, he writes:—

Inclosed you have an Invoice of Goods to be put up & sent me in the spring as early as You can, if the Stamp act be Repealed, other ways not. These goods, I beg may be well chosen & Packed & charged at the lowest Rates. My design being to put them in a shop for Retail in which I shall place a young man who has been with me since my late uncle's death— as my brother's leaving the

store occasioned my wanting more help just at that juncture, as I had a multiplicity of affairs to attend to. Of whose abilities I have a high opinion & shall now make tryall as well for his advantage as my own & if it answers I shall order the goods after these to be charged to his accn't.

As another apology for seeming neglect he writes :—

I have wrote you so fully on the subject of our Grievances & Burthens that I shall not add on that Head, only say that if we are not Relieved our Trade is gone & we/a Ruined people. I shall at once drop all Connections with Business, for I am so much of an Englishman that no power shall force me to carry on Business, the Profits of which to be applied to Place men, who we should be much better without than with them, neither is, nor shall my Property be at the Controll & Service of any one that pleases to demand it, wch I am sorry to say there is too great a probability of its being the case. But I am invariably Determined to support my Liberty and Property at ye expense of every thing else & will be free in a free Country & under a free Government. I have a Right to it & no man a Right to Deprive me of it. You may depend that by next opportunity I will close & send you all accounts of Vessels & sales, etc.

We now notice Mr. Hancock's first intimation of aiding his relatives. William Bowes, hereafter men-



FANEUIL HALL OF 1763.

tioned, was a cousin of the merchant ; he was one of that flock of children of the Bedford parsonage, cousins of John Hancock, who took such delight in the visits of the finely dressed boy who came out from Boston with his uncle and aunt to

get the country air. He writes :—

My particular friend & Relation, Mr. William Bowes, is Passenger in Captain Scott, he proposes spending six or eight months in England. I take the freedom to recommend him to your Particular Notice & Civilities, w<sup>ch</sup> I doubt not you will cheerfully afford him & which I shall Esteem a favor. He is a gentn. of good mind, Sober, Honest & Industrious, & very Deserving, & one I have a high opinion of. I wish him a happy sight of you. I Refer you to him for all matters stirring here & hope his Visit to you will Establish an agreeable Correspondence with you. I beg the favr. of yor. best advice & assistance & that you will in all Respects grant him yor. Countenance. Should Mr. Bowes have occasion for money at any Time, I pray you will please to supply with what sum or sums he may apply to you for even to the amt. of one Thousand or Fifteen hundred pounds sterling, w<sup>ch</sup> Charge to my acct. advising me thereof. I shall by next opportunity Transmit you some Remittance, as I would not by any means put you to the inconvenience of advancing for me, when I can possibly avoid it. Tho' it will sometimes happen so, & when it does I am ever Disposed to make every satisfaction ; but Considering the extent of my Business I hope you will think I do pretty well. I must Refer to my next, being now

Reduced to the evening to finish my Letters, & am Determined Scott shall sail early in the morning. Shall soon write you again when you may Rely I will close & send all accts. between us. My sincere wishes attend you for Health, Success and every kind of Felicity & believe with greatest Truth

Gentn., Your Real friend & most faithful humble servt. ✓

MESS. BARNARDS & HARRISON.

Under the same date Mr. Hancock writes:— 7

Should the Stamp Act be repealed & our Grievances Removed I shall Extend my Business & in all my demands from your place wholly apply to your house, and having the highest opinion of your Fidelity & Integrity, I purpose next season to Build a vessell of about 110 Tons to keep Running between this & Bristol, having a person to put in her who has long been in my Employ.

X John Hancock was not spoiled by coming suddenly into possession of a great business and fortune. It seemed to be his ambition to maintain the good reputation which his uncle, Thomas Hancock, enjoyed, and also to increase the business. If vanity was at times seen in his dress and habits, the only wonder is that his

ily wish you every kind of Felicity & whenever I may be useful I beg you freely command —

Gentn.,

Your most faithful & obedt. Humble Servt.

TO MESSRS. DEVONSHIRE & REEVES. 0

On the same date he writes to recommend Edward Jackson, a brazier, to the firm of Barnards & Harrison for credit. On Jan. 25, 1766, he writes to Barnards & Harrison:—

Captain Freeman arrived here last night, but not a line from you — I should be heartily glad to hear from you on the subject of our American affairs. If we are not relieved our trade is gone, for it is the United Resolution of this Continent not to submit to the Stamp Act, as we look upon it as unconstitutional. Am very glad that you begin to feel the ill consequences of the Stamp Act, & I look upon it that the Stoppage of Importing goods & the failure of Re-



INVOICE HEAD USED BY JOHN HANCOCK.

mittances, wch must fail if our Trade be gone, will have as good an Effect as we can Desire, & I pray you will exert yourselves for us, as to the Rashness your G. H. mentions, we have been guilty of I look upon it that no such rash measures have been taken in what particularly respects the Stamp Act. The Injury that has been done the Lieut. Gov'r. was quite a different affair, & was not done by this Town & is what I abhor & Detest as much as any man breathing, and would go great lengths in Repairing his Loss but an opposition to the Stamp Act is highly commendable, when I say that, I don't mean that every step that has been taken is so, but as

a people & a wide extended Country the general Dislike & opposition to the act is commendable. But I have said enough to convince you of my Dislike to it & I pray we may be relieved. . . . My friend Wm. Bowes went in Scott. I Beg your particular notice of him & pray my hearty Love to him. Do write me often, pray send me by Capt. Marshall a peck of steel filings to use instead of Black sand.

TO MESSRS. BARNARDS & HARRISON.

Hancock's sentiments written to foreign agents lacked none of the spirit of some utterances published in the papers of the time. They boldly denounced the Stamp Act as unconstitutional, and said, "Shall we not, then, all, as one man, join in opposing it, and spill the last drop of our blood, if necessary, rather than live to see it take place in America?"

It was at this time, Feb. 20, that there was a ceremony by the Sons of Liberty, who caused to be placed on Liberty-Tree<sup>1</sup> the following:—

much for the interest of Great Britain as ourselves to Ease our trade & in the case of the Stamp Act, there seems a necessity of Repealing it for almost to a man throughout the Continent, they are determined to oppose it, but I hope very soon to hear some good acct. from you. Do give me the earliest notice that the Parliament determines. I imagine the Brig Harrison will be the first Vessel here if the Stamp Act be repealed. You will have goods enough to load Marshall & Scott. Tho. they will be here late, I will Endeavor to have Oyl ready for them. I have now several whaling vessels of my own & in about three weeks shall fit them out, that with common success I shall have a large quantity of Oyl & Bone. I propose being pretty largely concerned the coming year in purchasing Oyl. I beg your opinion as early as possible as to oyl & bone. . . . I think I can venture to say that no man here can better consult your Interest in all Respects than myself. I hope soon to hear from you, my best wishes attend you for all Kind of Felicity, & I am with best Compliments & sincere Professions of Friendship

Gent<sup>le</sup>

Your Faithfull & most obed<sup>t</sup>

Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

MESS. BARNARDS & HARRISON.

The annual town-meeting of March brought added cares to the busy merchant. Besides a re-election as one of the selectmen, he was chosen on a committee with Samuel Adams to draw up a letter of thanks to the town of Plymouth, in recognition of one from that town addressed "To the Respectable Inhabitants of the Town of Boston," in which was expressed most hearty concurrence in all their recent acts. What part John Hancock had in the preparation of this letter is not known, but it stands on the records as a memorial of the sentiments of the town and of the committee. It concludes thus:—

"That the spirit of our venerable forefathers may revive and be diffused through every community in this



Land; that Liberty, Civil and Religious, the grand Object of their View, may still be felt, enjoyed and vindicated by the present Generation, and the fair Inheritance transmitted to our latest Posterity, is the fervent wish of the metropolis."

## CHAPTER XIII

THE REPEAL OF THE STAMP ACT. THE WELCOME NEWS BROUGHT BY HANCOCK'S VESSEL. THE PUBLIC REJOICING. HANCOCK FREELY TREATS TO MADEIRA. INSCRIPTIONS TO LIBERTY ENGRAVED BY PAUL REVERE. HANCOCK IN GENERAL COURT.

ON March 18 the Stamp Act was repealed, but it was two months before a copy of the act of repeal was received in Boston. It was expected, however, as is seen by the following letter to Devonshire & Reeves:—

BOSTON, *March 27, 1766.*

I hope soon to hear of the Repeal of the Stamp Act. It is such an oppressive & unconstitutional act that I am persuaded the Parliament upon consideration will Relieve us. I am much obliged to your good office in this matter, & hope your Representation will meet success. Please to send 100 Doz. Pins No. 4.; 10 Doz short whites,

On the same day to Barnards & Harrison he writes:—

I have wrote to Messrs. Devonshire & Reeves of Bristol to Draw on you for Balance of my acct. When their bill appears I pray the fav'r. You will please duly to honor it & charge its amt. to my acct. We are just beginning to fit out our whalemens & hope shall have good success. I have no acct. of Liberty, Capt. Smith. Hope he will soon arrive. I shall make no saving by her. I shall dispose of her next voyage. Messrs. Barker & Burnell of Nantucket & myself have entered a concern on a Brig. to be employed this season in the Straights on a Whaling voyage & if she meet with success is to proceed with her oyle & Bone direct from the Straights to London. She will go to Your address, by wch we shall make a considerable

saving, having made such arrangement with the crew as if she meets success, will be agreeable to our advantage of w<sup>ch</sup> more hereafter.

The best wishes attend for all Happiness & believe me very sincerely  
Gent'n

Your most faithful & obliged Humble servt.

The Hancock home for many years had been one to which the officials and men of dignity had freely gone. Thomas Pownal, who preceded Francis Bernard as governor, was a warm friend of Thomas Hancock and wife, and had become much attached to their nephew. He looked after the young man when in England, and was still in correspondence with the merchant. To this man of distinction John Hancock writes on March 27, 1766:—

I am favored with Your Letter of Dec. 1, last, & note the contents. I observe what you mention with Respect to your money matters & the prospect of getting it home by means of General Gage's Bills on the Treasury & that he was to draw on me for the money. I have recd. a letter from General Gage on this subject, copy of w<sup>ch</sup> I now Inclose You, by w<sup>ch</sup> You will see he expects I send

Recovery. She begs her particular respects to you & your Lady & congratulates you on your connection with so agreeable a Lady & wishes you every kind of felicity. I hope soon to hear the Result of Parliament with Respect to our American affairs & am persuaded that upon Consideration that most unconstitutional & oppressive Stamp Act will be Repealed. It is a Grievance that the Colonies cannot submit to. Our trade must be Ruined & think it much for the Interests of Great Britain to give us a free & extensive Trade. I shall be always glad of the honor of a Line from you. I heartily wish you Health, happiness & am with unfeigned esteem sir.

Your most obliged & most faithful Humble servt.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GOV. POWNAL.

On April 1 the inhabitants of Boston met in Faneuil Hall. The occasion, as stated by the moderator, James Otis, was the expectation of hearing an authentic account of the repeal of the Stamp Act. The selectmen were chosen as a committee to make plans for a season of rejoicing, and give the inhabitants seasonable notice in such manner as they shall think best.

While plans for the public demonstration are being carefully made by the committee, who doubtless meet in Hancock's counting-room, the merchant turns to his desk, takes his quill, and writes to London agents:—

We momentarily expect to hear from England. We have had several accts. that the Stamp Act is repealed & hope very soon to have a confirmation of it.

My Best wishes attend You, I cant add but that I am

Your very Humble servt-

MESS. BARNARDS & HARRISON.

On April 30, in another letter to his London agents, he speaks of the arrival of Captain Jacobson, who has brought news of the repeal, and says:—

I hope the next vessel will bring us the entire repeal of it. You may rest assured that the people in this country will exert themselves to show their Loyalty & attachment to Great Britain.

On May 27 he writes to the same persons : —

Our Brig Harrison Capt. Shubael Coffin brought us the first account of the Repeal of the Stamp Act, which gave us great Joy & has given a new face to things. Our rejoicing has been conducted in a very Decent, Reputable manner, & I hope now peace & harmony will prevail. My best Influence & endeavors to that purpose shall be used. I doubt not but the colonies will make all the grateful Returns in their power.

The Express sent off by your Merch<sup>ts</sup> we just hear is arriv'd at Virginia. Letters not yet come, that with the former Letter will be answered immediately after the Rec<sup>t</sup> of the Letter by the Express.

Capt. Marshall arriv'd here in a fine passage of 31 days from London, he is now unloading & I shall use my best endeavours to get him away as soon as possible, tho' oyl is not yet come in. The Brig Harrison is gone to Nantuckett & hope she will be soon Dispatched. I cannot now make a particular Reply to your fav<sup>rs</sup> but will by Smith who will sail in about Fourteen days.

Your Real friend

& Oblig'd Hum<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.

MESS. HARRISONS & BARNARD.

With a light heart and a hopeful, cheerful manner, John Hancock, as all the merchants, start in for spring

cock to be "*Decent and Reputable*," was described more fully in the papers of the time, thus :—

April 28, 1766. — Monday last, The Frecholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, met at Faneuil Hall, where they were well pleased with the accounts which had been received from Home, in regard to the progress of the repeal of the Stamp Act ; whereupon they voted the methods to exhibit their joy, when the

account shall arrive of the Bill for a Repeal has passed the whole Legislature voted unanimously that the magistrates of the Town, the Selectmen, Firewards, Constables and Engineers, be desired to use their utmost endeavours, to prevent any Bonfire being made in any part of the Town, also the throwing of Rockets, Squibs, and other Fireworks, in any of the streets of said Town, except the time that shall be appointed for general Rejoicings ; and that the inhabitants be desired for the present to restrain their children and servants from going abroad on evenings.



OLD SOUTH MEETING-HOUSE.

The Sons of Liberty voted, May 17 :—

That their exhibition of joy on the repeal of the Stamp Act be on the Common.

That fireworks be played off from a stage to be erected near the Work-House Gates.

That there be an advertisement published on Monday next, of the intended exhibition : the place where, and the time when it will end. I do therefore notify the friends of liberty, that an authentic account of the Repeal of the Stamp Act is arrived, and the gentlemen, Selectmen of Boston have fixed upon this evening, for the public rejoicing, at whose desires will be exhibited on the Common,

an Obelisk, engraved by Mr. Paul Revere. The signal of its ending will be by firing a horizontal wheel on the top of the Obelisk, when it is desired the assembly will retire.

By order of the Com.

(Signed) M. Y. Secretary.

May 19, 1766.

On May 26 appeared the following :—

Friday se'nnight, to the inexpressible joy of all were received by Capt. Coffin, the important news of the repeal of the Stamp Act, which was signed by His Majesty the 18<sup>th</sup> March last; upon which the bells in the town were set a ringing, the ships in the harbour displayed their colours, guns were discharged in different parts of the town, and in the evening were several bonfires. According to a previous vote of the town, the Selectmen met in the afternoon at Faneuil Hall, and appointed Monday last for a day of general rejoicing on the happy occasion.

The morning was ushered in with music, ringing of bells, and the discharge of cannon, the ships in the harbour and many of the houses in town being adorned with colours, — joy smiled in every countenance, benevolence, gratitude and content seemed the companions of all. By the generosity of some gentlemen remarkable for their humanity and patriotism, our gaol was freed of debtors, —

Hid thee within our hearts most golden cell,  
 And brav'd the powers of earth and powers of hell,  
*Goddess!* we cannot part, thou must not fly—  
 Be slaves! we dare to scorn it—dare to die.

On the second side:—

While clanging chains and curses shall salute  
 Thine ears remorseless G—le, thine O B—e  
 To you blest patriots, we our cause submit,  
 Illustrious (Camden) Britain's guardian, Pitt!  
 Recede not, frown not, rather let us be  
 Depriv'd of being, than of Liberty.  
 Let fraud or malice blacken all our crimes,  
 No disaffection stains these peaceful climes;  
 O save us, shield us from impending woes,  
 The foes of Britain only are our foes.

On the third side:—

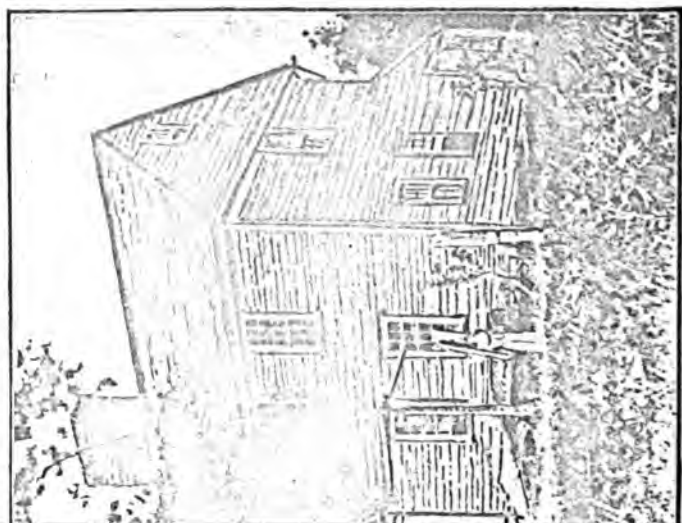
Boast foul oppression! boast thy transient reign,  
 While honest freedom struggles with her chain,  
 But know the sons of virtue, hardy, brave,  
 Disdain to lose thro' mean despair to save.  
 Arous'd in thunder, awful they appear  
 With proud deliverance stalking in their rear.  
 While tyrant foes their pallid fears betray,  
 Shrink from their arms, and give their vengeance way,  
 See in th' unequal war oppressors fall,  
 The hate, contempt and endless curse of all.

On the fourth side:—

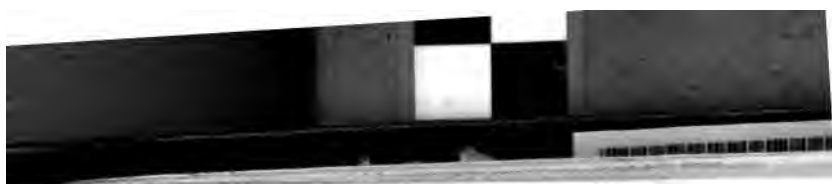
Our faith approv'd, our Liberty restor'd,  
 Our hearts bend gratefully to our sov'r'gn Lord;  
 Hail darling Monarch! by this act endear'd  
 Our firm affections are thy best reward.  
 Sh'd Britain's self, against herself divide,  
 And hostile armies frown on either side,—  
 Sh'd hosts rebellious, shake our Brunswick's throne,  
 And as they dar'd thy parent, dare the son,  
 To this asylum stretch thine happy wing,  
 And we'll contend, who best shall love our King.

On the top of the pyramid was fixed a round box of fireworks horizontally. About one hundred yards from the pyramid the sons



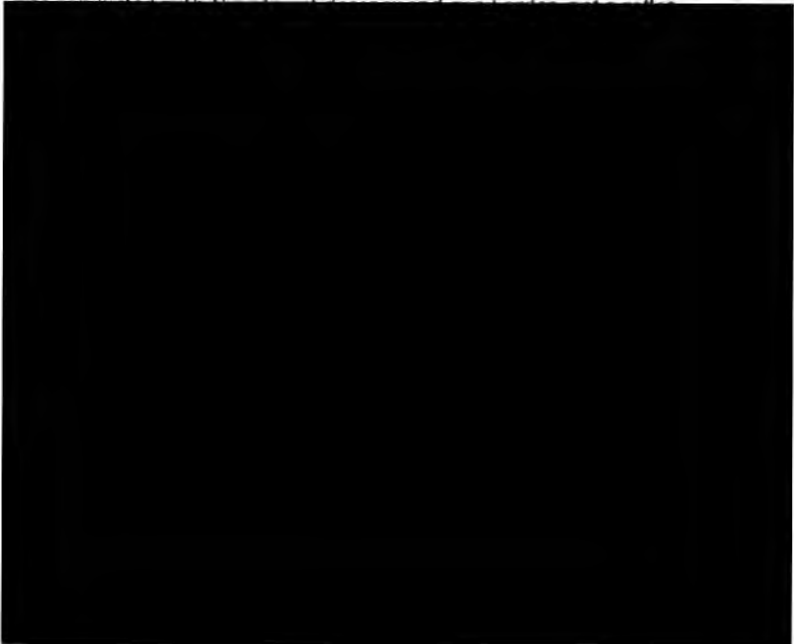


D HOUSE, ANDOVER.



of liberty erected a stage for the exhibition of their fireworks, near the workhouse, in the lower room of which they entertained the gentlemen of the town. John Hancock, Esq., who gave a grand and elegant entertainment to the genteel part of the town, and treated the populace with a pipe of Madeira wine, erected at the front of his house, which was magnificently illuminated, a stage for the exhibition of fireworks, which was to answer those of the sons of liberty! At dusk the scene opened by the discharge of twelve rockets from each stage; after which the figures on the pyramid were uncovered, making a beautiful appearance. To give a description of the great variety of fireworks exhibited from this time till eleven o'clock would be endless — the air was filled with rockets — the ground with beehives and serpents — and the two stages with wheels of fireworks of various sorts.

Mr. Otis and some other gentlemen who lived near the Common kept open house, the whole evening, which was very pleasant; the multitude of gentlemen and ladies, who were continually passing from one place to another, added much to the brilliancy of the night. At eleven o'clock, the signal being given by a discharge of 21 rockets, the horizontal wheel on the top of the pyramid or obelisk was played off, ending in the discharge of 16 dozen of serpents in the air, which concluded the show. To the honor of the sons of liberty we can with pleasure inform the world that everything



cerity of his letter to his London agents, in which he denounced the Stamp-act riot. At this General Court there was passed an act for collecting a tax on imports. This materially affected John Hancock; but it was a tax of their own laying, and aroused no serious opposition. The spring was now fully upon him; never before did June days seem to afford such pleasure. The oppression of the Stamp Act had been averted, and merchants felt that the future was secure. With all this to exhilarate John Hancock, he took his quill, and resumed business activity:—

BOSTON, *June 6th, 1766.*

GENL.: I wrote you by Jarvis, when I acknowledged the Rect. of your fav'rs by Coffin, Blake, Shard & Marshall, since wch have none of yo'r fav'rs. I must beg your further excuse, as I cannot by this ship make a particular reply to yo'r Letter, being very much engaged. I duly observe the contents & with regard to the Boston Packett, shall as soon as I hear from Folger, Determine that matter as you desire of wch shall write.

This I hope you will Rec'e by the ship Liberty, Henry Smith, Mas'r., who I have Loaded on my own accott and now Inclose you Invo. & Bill of Lading of cargo on board the Liberty for my accott. Say Oyl, Tar, Turpentine, Pottashes, Logwood & Staves to your address wch I wish may arrive safe & meet a tolerable market. I doubt not your best Endeavours to obtain the best prices & Recommend your Disposing of it as soon as you can on the best terms that you may be in rash, the Neat proceeds of wch you will please to pass to my credit with B & H unless you have settled that accott; that Ballance to your accott & pray you will as soon as you can send sales of this cargo with all charges attending the ship & also send the accott. of the Liberty, the former voyage. . . .

This ship Liberty I should be fond of selling & Recommend to you to use your best Endeavours for that purpose I would not give her away, but if she will fetch a £1000 sterlg. I should be glad to part with her & she is Really worth that, upon the whole I Leave her with you to do what you judge most for my interest. I should prefer Disposing of her to any tolerable price. . . . But if on the whole you cannot dispose of the ship, I pray the favr. you will en-

deavour to obtain some employ for her, & if after strict enquiry nothing better offers & a freight to Lisbon can be had, you will please to order to that place, & then take in a Load of Salt for this place, tho. I should much rather the ship was sold, & I must renew my desire to you on that Head. I have drawn on you of this date No. 51, in fav'r Mrs. Abigail Whitney and daughter for £300 st'r'l'g, wch you will please to honour & charge to my accott. My bills are under the same directions to your late Co. I have been so hurried have not altered them. Yet this you will excuse.

I should be very glad, if not already done, that you will plan to close my accott. with the late comp. of Barnards & Harrison & that the Balla. either may be carried to accott. with you, & pray include all remittances.

I cannot determine when I shall get Marshall away. Oyl is not yet at markt, but you may depend I shall use the greatest Dispatch in Loading her. I am not able to say anything as to the price of Oyl at present, but fear it will be rather high, but what I purchase shall be on the best Terms & shall endeavour that the price be as low as possible. I duly note what you say of whale Bone & shall be mindfull to purchase what I can that is good & shall advise you as I go on.

My best wishes attend for every kind of Felicity & believe me

I laid the Letters before them for their consideration. We are much obliged to you for your Exertions & Endeavors to remove our grievances & doubt not but the Colonies will ever show great gratitude to their Benefactors, such certainly is the disposition of the people of this province.

I am with much esteem.

Gent'n, Yr. Most Humble Servt.

eg.

## CHAPTER XIV

HANCOCK'S ILL HEALTH. A MERCHANT'S SHREWDNESS. ABSORBING CARES. POWER OF RESENTMENT. BOSTON HARBOR FROZEN OVER. SCARCITY OF MONEY. HANCOCK REPRESENTS BOSTON IN THE GENERAL COURT. HANCOCK RECOMMENDS JAMES OTIS, ESQ., AS AN ATTORNEY. CHANGE IN LONDON AGENTS. HANCOCK SCATTERS GUINEAS AMONG HIS POOR TENANTS. NON-IMPORTATION RESOLUTIONS ARE REVIVED. ORDERS WINE FROM MADEIRA. HANCOCK HAD EVERYTHING TO LOSE AND NOTHING TO GAIN.

A LETTER of July 28, 1766, affords light on the financial management of business:—

I could not avoid, as I must keep some money by me ready for Bone & oyl as it comes in. Inclos'd you have Duplicate of Inv'o for fall goods.

MESS HARRISONS & BARNARDS.

The session of the General Court which began May 28 was a stormy one, and Hancock was soon reported too ill to attend to all that demanded his attention.

In a letter of Oct. 7, 1766, he speaks of illness. It seems to be the alarm-signal of an overtaxed physical and mental system. On Oct. 15 he sends to London for four pieces of very best Bay Holland and two of best cambric "for my own use. Pray let them be the very best & well chosen." He asks for directions about disposing of a trunk of silks shipped some time before. He says, "They lay in my store. I can never sell them, & wait your directions." He writes that Lane, Benson, & Co., of Cork, have some demands against him, and adds:—

They have but an indifferent opinion of me, but I can't help it. I could wish it had been otherwise. I hope my friend Bowes will come in ship Thames, and that he has conducted himself in London so as to merit your esteem and approbation.

He fails to realize that sudden improvement in business which he anticipated. He says:—

Our trade is very dull, money very scarce and but an indifferent prospect of carrying on Business to any advantage. Out of all my connections and debts I can't raise cash enough for a Load of Oyle without drawing my own Bills.

By Nov. 8 his spirits have revived, and he is evidently exulting because of some advantage obtained over his commercial competitor, Mr. Rotch. He says:—

I have now so well established in those concerns in the Whale Fishery that I can have the refusal of almost all their oyl & I think



Mr. R——h has had small success in purchasing & by far the greatest quantity of oyl will be in your hands which is my aim.

I am now fitting up the ship Thomas, Wm. Davis mastr. with oyl. My view in this is to prevent their purchasing and to hinder what oyl I can going into other hands, as by large quantities centering with you, you will be better able to command a price & I hope you will approve this. I believe I may say I have purchased the greater quantity of what oyl has been caught this season & after the ships Freeman & Daverson are gone I know not of any oyl but what I have got. That I can't but think you will have it in your power almost to obtain your own price for it. I doubt not but you will exert yourself in the Disposition of it.

On Nov. 10 he writes to his London agents. The burden of his letter seems to be complaints of a charge for interest on his unsettled account) with them. He mentions that he has two thousand barrels of oil to ship. He also lets them know that other business firms are soliciting his patronage, thus:—

cock's business "taffy," as it would be termed in modern parlance, did not accomplish what it was expected to effect. He writes to the same agents on Dec. 3, 1766:—

To be open & honest, I now tell you I will never excede to it—otherways — really Gent'n. it is making a mere fool of me. I am not as void of common sense, as to give way in this, contrary to my own judgment, but I wave expressing fully my sentiments as to your transactions in this matter, but will only say that I expect you will credit my acct. for the £300 & interest charged upon it, which if I have not an acct. from you of its being done in the first letter I receive from you after this reaches you, I will upon my Honor & Reputation send a single writ down to Casco Bay & take Savage & secure myself for the £300 with Interest. I will strictly abide by all my letters, but this treatment really vexes me & I see so much of the world that I am almost tempted to say I will not concern myself in trade any longer. I beg your attention to these matters & that I may hear from you by the very first oppor, for I will not loose the £300. I will as things are circumstanced obtain it if it be to be had above ground. I can't but think myself very severely dealt with, better Treatment Gent'n. I think without vanity I merit. Tho I must say I see no Difference between me & the most insignificant correspondent you have. In short Gent'n. you seem of late to try to put me out of Temper & express so very little satisfaction in my conduct, that I am almost tired. No man can have a higher opinion of you than myself; nor has anyone strove more to promote your Interests here than myself. I cannot live in constant Disputes. I will live as agreeable & easy as I can & unless I can carry on Business without being Involved in so many perplexities as of late, I will either leave it off or carry it on in another manner. But I hope you will redress me.

He follows by saying, "send me no more unless you can give me one year's credit, as I have to give the same here." In the same pouch he sends an order for goods for William Palfrey, whom he is aiding to start in business. With other things for himself he orders:—

1 Box very best Tobacco pipes that can be purchased in London for use of Gent'n. in my own family. This article has been repeatedly wrote for, but not so lucky as to engage your attention. ✓

Who cannot fancy an evening at the Hancock mansion, when the merchant entertains his relatives and such guests as James Otis, Samuel Adams, John Adams, John Rowe, William Phillips, Joshua Henshaw, and other notables of that day, who gather with the proud owner about the grate of flaming coals. If dress had been considered, Samuel Adams would not have been admitted; for his snuff-brown coat, glistening with the effects of long service, was in striking contrast to the scarlet velvet and elaborate embroidery of his entertainer. But the republican simplicity of the man made him a welcome guest among all genuine patriots. Circumstances had brought Hancock and Adams together much of late. They had served on various committees

I shall start Scott as quick as possible. No man can or shall give greater Despatch to ships than myself, neither shall any man here Transact any Business on better terms than I will & any command you may have for, you may rely on the utmost Fidelity, Dispatch & Punctuality.

His later explanation of a delay is that the harbor has been frozen up, and he could not get Scott away. He at same time sends to his agents for—

A neat silver watch of about 8 Guineas; 2 yds of Green Velvet of a deep lively green at abt. 10 per yard; 4 yds green silk, being for a cushion for a church Desk.

Mr. Hancock's book shows that he shipped to London in six months oil to the amount of £16,307 8s. On April 22, 1767, he writes to Harrisons, Barnards, & Co.:—

Please to send me a bell for a church of the best kind, about 300 lbs.

This was probably a gift to the church at Jamaica Plain, where he had a summer home. In May, 1767, he complains bitterly of the condition of business.

I shall stop importing goods for some time, they have been sold so low that nothing can be got by the business.

On July 29, 1767, he orders—

100 weight best moulded tallow candles, 200 weight best dipt. tallow candles; all for my own use & don't fail sending them.

He adds, in vindication of former transactions:—

I a little wonder at what you mention respect'g the affair of Mr Arthur Savage. I cannot give a better answer to it than by Begging you to refer to my two Letters of Nov<sup>r</sup> 17, 1764, by which you will see I advis'd you not to credit him, rather than anything encouraging, & the Sincere Dictates of my conscience are that I am

no more accountable than the most indifferent person, that as you have rec'd from him the £300 I limited his Credit to, it is of course, cancell'd.

He further adds : —

The situation of our trade & the scarcity of money is such that I have almost come to a Resolution to suspend the Importation of Goods for a year or two, till matters take a Better turn, & then shall have time to close all my accts. Then I shall know whether I can realize anything or not, for times are very precarious. You ship goods to any & everybody, send for sales here the articles we import, and employ persons to purchase up here our Exporting commodities that I know not how we shall make remittances for our goods already imported. That I don't think is right, for besides raising the prices it must put us in Difficulty in remitting & you must wait with patience.

What merchant has not passed through such seasons of depression, and does not have in his bosom a fellow-feeling for John Hancock in his fits of despondency of more than a century ago? What wonder that he closes

To Harrison, Barnard, & Sprag he says :—

The great and unreasonable Extent of your connections here and the Many and frequent Credits you give, w<sup>th</sup> the Decline of our Trade has brought me to a Resolution of stopp'g, at least for a few years the Importation of English goods, & seeing all my acco<sup>t</sup> closed, among which yours is the greatest, for if I can meet with no more Indulgence in the Course of my Business with you than the man who perhaps does not import more than £1000 a year, & the advantage of his Business to you accrues only on your Exports of goods, whereas mine the year throughout is not only outward but more on the importation from me. I say if I can be only on a footing, it is time for me to close, & establish my Concern on a more equitable basis, w<sup>ch</sup> I think is but Reasonable.

His consignments of whale-oil have not been giving satisfaction in London and other markets, and there has come to him a polite suggestion that there be sent over from London a man to inspect the oil, etc., before it is shipped. This does not meet with a very pleasant reception on the part of Hancock, who in a reply of Sept. 2, 1767, to his London agents, says :—

I note particularly what you say at waiting my answer to a proposal you have made, by the instigation of Messrs. Moor & Smith, to send me over a man to inspect Oyl that I may purchase. What you mean, Gentln., I am at a loss to know. When I am in want of a Guardian our laws will appoint one. Really I know not what you think. I am a Judge for myself, & if you do not think me a Judge for you, I pray you would not employ me, for I will never submit to have a man sent over to inspect my business, to make me the ridicule of the merchts., neither do I Choose that the Oyle I send home should be put into the hands of those Gent<sup>l</sup> on the terms you have contracted with them.

On Sept. 3 Hancock writes a letter which shows his power of resentment to its fullest extent :—

MR. WM. JONES :—

Your treatment of me has been such as to render you unworthy of my notice, even by my letters. But I shall not take up my time

to inveigh against you. Shall only say that you have deviated from as solemn engagement as words could form. My Reliance upon your honor has been the means of my losing at least £500 stg. Your taking the advantage of me, because our agreement was not committed to writing, as we were upon honor, I must tell you is beneath the character of a gentleman & what no man would have been guilty of that had the best notions of honor. I forbear mentioning the circumstance of the affair, as it is very disagreeable to me. I greatly reflect upon myself that I should submit to your Repeated solicitations to form a connection. It was contrary to the advice of my friends who knew you better than I did. The goods you consigned me on your return to Bristol you may order out of my hands when you please, for you can't expect that I should be accountable when you have broke the terms on which they were sent. I now utterly forbid you ever to ship me a single article again & desire you will never more solicit me on that head. I Despise you for your conduct towards me & desire no connection with you. You have greatly



HANCOCK SUN-DIAL.  
(Lexington Library.)

Hancock writes to his London agents, advising them to employ, as their attorney here, James Otis, who, he says, since the death of Mr. Gridley, is the first of the profession. He offers to receive and remit any moneys that Otis may collect for him. In the same letters he again strongly objects to the suggestion to send over an inspector of oil, and concludes his long letter thus :—

You never make any mention to me of public matters. Your hints on that subject would be very agreeable. Could you be brought to Realize that the salvation of Great Britain & America are connected, I am sure you would not be so silent. I observe what you say of Marshall. I think he ought to wait, or any other vessel, for freight. We had much better dispose of our vessels than sink so much money. She had better bring stones than' coals. I pray you would not send any more, they are cheaper here than in London.

The indignation of Hancock seen in previous letters was aroused through his interest in the welfare of his country, while the following letter shows the same spirit aroused through alleged personal injury. It marks the beginning of the end of a long and extensive business correspondence between the Hancock firm and that of Barnard & Harrison.

I received your Letter of 15th July which I heartily wish had got here in a tolerable passage, as if it had Gent'n. suffer me to tell you, it would from the Contents have much alter'd my plan of Business this Fall; such a Letter I despise, & is what no man who had any knowledge of me would have dar'd to address to me. for God's sake Gent'n. what can be your intentions, if your aim is to injure my reputation you will fail in your attempt, neither is it in your or any man's power to hurt my Credit in this part of the world, but it appears to me you are injuring yourselves. I mean as to connections in Business & tho' by experience I find I have no influence with you, let me tell you, I am one of no small influence here, & am greatly offended at the liberties you take with me in your Letters & is what



I should have disdained to have wrote a man of much less Consequence than myself.

You can be at no loss to determine what particular passages in your Letter I refer to, but will in the first place mention your Letter to Mr. Palfrey upon the same subject with the Paragraph in yours respecting that Gent'n. You say you received his letter & pay a proper Respect to him & my recommendation, but as you are determined to retrench your trade, you must beg to be excused, sending his goods. In your letter to me you say, "We have wrote Mr Palfrey by this opportunity acquainting him that we must decline his orders, we have the highest opinion of your good intention towards us, & you will we doubt not excuse us."

How Repugnant is your conduct to your expression in your Letters to say you have the highest opinion of my good intentions & to act so contrary, nay openly & in Effect, to say that I am not of Reputation & Credit enough to answer for the Goods. You say you want to retrench your Trade. Why Gent'n. am I the first object of your Trial? I should not have expected this from those with whom the whole extent of my Business, centres, that I should be one of the first to be Refused Goods is truly very astonishing to me, that an Invoice sent home to you for a few goods to stock my own shop under the direction of Mr. Palfrey should be refused is as high an

you the full balance, with as many thanks for your many services hitherto.

But I must add Gent'n. from the treatment I have had that unless matters can be better Reconciled I must wave my Connections. I stand ready at an hours warning to pay every debt I owe in the world but as I can't be thought by you to be Responsible for £500 I must apply to those who have a better opinion of me than you have.

I always chuse Gentn. to be open and explicit. I have wrote Mr. Haley by this opportunity on the subject of connection in Business, & proposed opening a Correspondence with him at least till I can have an explanation from you. I look on myself a man of Capital & am not to be put on a footing with every two penny Shop keeper that addresses You. I am greatly amaz'd at your conduct. I think I am very poorly treated, & I suppose the only instance in town. I doubt not when Scott arrives he will bring Goods for every Shop Keeper that deals with you, & to refuse me Goods Gentn. is what I can't bear. I am ready to pay you every farthing I owe you. You have effected me in the tenderest point.

I have determined to sending Invoice to Mr. Haley for a spring supply, & let me tell you you are oblig'd to me for some of your best Correspondents, who would naturally be induced to deal with the man I engage with, & will follow me, and although my business is not worth your attention, Yet it may be an object of the acceptance of many a man in England, with thanks besides, & I believe Mr. Haley will think so.

Mr. Cazneau, whom you disappointed in his Goods, is going to England, to whom I shall give a more extensive credit than I did before, & dare say Mr. Haley will readily accept his Commission, as to Mr. Palfrey's goods, I shall write for them myself to Mr. Haley, & am in no doubt he will readily oblige me in sending them.



I have many more things to say but time fails me as I keep this vessell wholly for my Letters, all my Friends & Connections are amaz'd at your Conduct, but I suspend adding till next opp'y, till when I am  
Gent<sup>n</sup>

Your humble Servant.

Mr. William Palfrey, whose order was refused by the London merchants, seems to have been a friend, and at times confidential clerk, of Hancock's. Cazneau was a

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Wm Palfrey', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

merchant of standing in Boston at the same time. Palfrey and Cazneau were both losers by the great fire of 1760, the same fire by which many of Hancock's tenements were destroyed. When the homeless tenants gathered around their landlord, and expressed sympathy at his loss, he remarked that they were the greatest sufferers, and passed about a quantity of guineas among them.

Having closed his letters to Harrison, Barnard, & Sprag, the indignant merchant writes to George Haley,

subject. In Confidence — Sir, that such a connection would be agreeable to you, I now address you tendering you the conducting of all my affairs that lay in your way, at same time acquainting you that I expect to be on a footing even with the very best of your correspondents, & as I am largely concerned in navigation you will have Spring & Fall from me, many consignments. I have now large parcels of Oyle, whale fins & Potashes, to ship waiting the arrival of Scott, Marshall & Smith from your place, whom I shall despatch, loaded to your address, not doubting but you will concern yourself for my interest as you do for others.

Marshall & Scott are partly owned by the House of Harrison, Barnard & Sprag. Those vessels on their arrival back to you, I shall order to be sold & shall desire you to purchase for me, of which more hereafter. I have a new Brig which I expect in every hour, whose loading is already in store on my wharf, say Oyle, Pottashes &c., which I shall despatch to your address, the vessel to be sold. I have not time to be as explicit as I could wish, but will by next.

My character & situation in Life, you may be acquainted with from any person from this part of the world, from Harrison & Co., from Mr. Trecothick, Mr. Lane & many others, but really I address you Sir, as a man on whom you may depend, & a man of capital & in whom I have the vanity to say, you may confide.

The vessel by whom this goes, I have loaded with Oyle &c., to the address of Harrison & Co. My letters were all finished & delivered before Daverson arrived, otherwise I should have consigned this to you. I have wrote Messrs. H. & Co. very explicitly by this opprty, as I have kept the vessel on purpose. In consequence of this consignment I have drawn Bills on them perhaps to the amt of £3000 stg. Should they from my openness in addressing them be induced to protest my Bills by way of Resentment, which I have no suspicion of, I must take the liberty to ask the favor of you to take them up for my honor, & will immediately on notice order you the amount with any satisfaction for such. . . . By next opportunity I shall write you more explicitly & shall forward you my Invoice for a spring supply of goods, which from the General decline of Trade will be smaller than usual, but hope hereafter things will take a more favorable turn. I shall be glad of a letter from you as soon as possible & should be glad to know something of your connections, & whether you cannot give my vessels a freight Spring & Fall. I don't not but you will help me all you can. Your determination on

these points, as soon as may will be agreeable. I ask pardon for the Liberty I have taken & in confidence it shall be to mutual advantage. I am with Esteem

Sir —

Your most obedt. humble servt.

GEORGE HALEY ESQ<sup>r</sup>.

The disadvantage of being obliged to wait many weeks for the reply of acceptance from Mr. Haley did not prevent Mr. Hancock from sending goods, assuming that his proposition would be accepted by Haley. Hancock sends several cargoes before he is fully assured that he has a new agency established in London.

Mr. Hancock makes frequent complaints of his ill health, and says on October 30:—

I have the misfortune to be confined to my Room by Indisposition, but am in hopes soon to recover.

Nov. 2, 1767, he addresses his former agents at Lon-

Perkins of Bridgewater.<sup>1</sup> In fact, John addressed his stepfather when he was in England under date of March 2, 1761. He said:—

I shall with satisfaction bid adieu to this grand place with all its pleasurable enjoyments and tempting scenes, for more substantial pleasure which I promise myself in the enjoyment of my friends in America.

There was a twofold interest in the Perkins family. A son of the Bridgewater minister married Mary, sister of John Hancock; and their posterity are found interested in subsequent history of the Hancock family.



HANCOCK DOOR-KNOCKER.

(Old State House Collection)

On Nov. 2 the Brig Lydia, James Scott, master, sailed with a cargo, consigned to Mr. George Haley. A letter of the same date concludes with the following:—

I have sent you by Capt. Scott,— A Coop with some wood Ducks. It, at first contained six pair, some have died, but hope some will get safe to you.

1 Quintal dun Table Fish.

1 Cag of Pickled Peppers.

of which I beg your acceptance, if there be anything in this part of the world that would be agreeable to you do let me know it & I will gladly send it you.

I am with Esteem Sir,

Your most hble Servant.

GEORGE HALEY ESQ.

In the same vessel he sends directions to his former agents to have the brig in which they have joint interests sold, and says:—

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. John Hancock, mother of the patriot, was Mary Hawks, and thrice married, first to Mr. Samuel Thaxter of Hingham.

I am determined to deal for Cash only and to keep one vessel running just to bring my own Goods, I should be glad to hear from you & know the reason why I am so freely and extraordinarily dealt with. I have gent. the highest friendship for you, but I can't bear to be so treated. I am above using others so, & dont expect it myself. I however hope to come to some amicable accommodation, but my navigation I am determined to dispose of, & now particularly say, that hereafter if I should live I will never be concerned with any one man again in Navigation, for I can afford to own myself & will never after this have it said that any one is connected with me in shipping. I will accept in the case of the Thames Capt Watt. I am content to hold my part of her if agreeable to you— if not agreeable to you, I am content to sell my  $\frac{1}{4}$  of her to you.

I am now so hurried cant add and but will write you largely soon, & am

Your real friend.

HARRISON, BARNARD & SPRAG.

On Nov. 12, 1767, he sends to Madeira for —

Four pipes of the very best Madeira Wine that you can possibly procure for my own table. I don't stand for price, If it be good, I

I should be oblig'd to you to give my vessell the preference. She is really a good strong vessel well found and a good master.

I shall be much obliged to you to dispatch my sloop with the wines as soon as you possibly can, as I shall not only want the wines but the sloop; and you will please to receive this as a standing order to ship me an annual pipe of the very best Maderia wine until counter manded drawing for its cost on Mr. Haley. You will please to give the master of my sloop any service or assistance, Respecting his vessell he may stand in need of. I am with much respect,

Gent.

Your most obedt. servt.

MESS. HILL, LAMAR & BISSETT.

Six days later he adds a letter in which he says:—

I have not to add, but to desire that the wine, I have wrote for my own use may be of the very best and that those for sale may be good palatable wines. Please send me one bushel of your walnuts, and draw for the cost with the wine.

Nov. 21, 1767, is the date of a letter to George Haley, in which Mr. Hancock says:—

I am to Desire the favr. you will please to order to be made & sent me, as neat a Mahogany Cabinet as can be made in London, suitable for a Lady's chamber, rather convenient than Remarkable for any outward Decorations. I would have it very neat & Respectable as it is for my Aunt, widow of my late Uncle, with whom I now Reside, & a Lady for whom I have the highest affection & Esteem.

Under date of Dec. 15, 1767, Hancock writes to George Haley thus:—

I am sorry to say that I think too great encouragement is given by your Gentn Merch<sup>ts</sup> to persons here of no capital. I am quite confident finally you must be great losers. One gentn who has lately had an extensive credit from you has been a great hurt to trade here. Such credits, not only hurt your best friends here, but finally yourselves. I just hint this. You know who I mean, I believe Mr. Thomas Gray has lately been especial with you, on this subject, that I need say no more, only that if such persons are put



on a footing with men of Capital, it is not worth my while to be concerned in trade. You will please to excuse my mentioning this much.

He sends in some orders as follows:—

100 squares of best London glass 18 by 11½ for the use of my own House w<sup>ch</sup>, I pray may be the very best.

It is apparent by Mr. Hancock's letters, as well as by the proceedings of the Boston town-meetings, that the restraint which the people had voluntarily imposed upon themselves in regard to superfluities was thrown off after the repeal of the Stamp Act. They evidently thought that all things were to be as they were before the beginning of Stamp-act agitation. But they soon saw their mistake. In the town-meeting of Dec. 22, 1767, the question was freely discussed, and instructions were given their representatives in General Court. "It is with concern," say the committee, "we are obliged

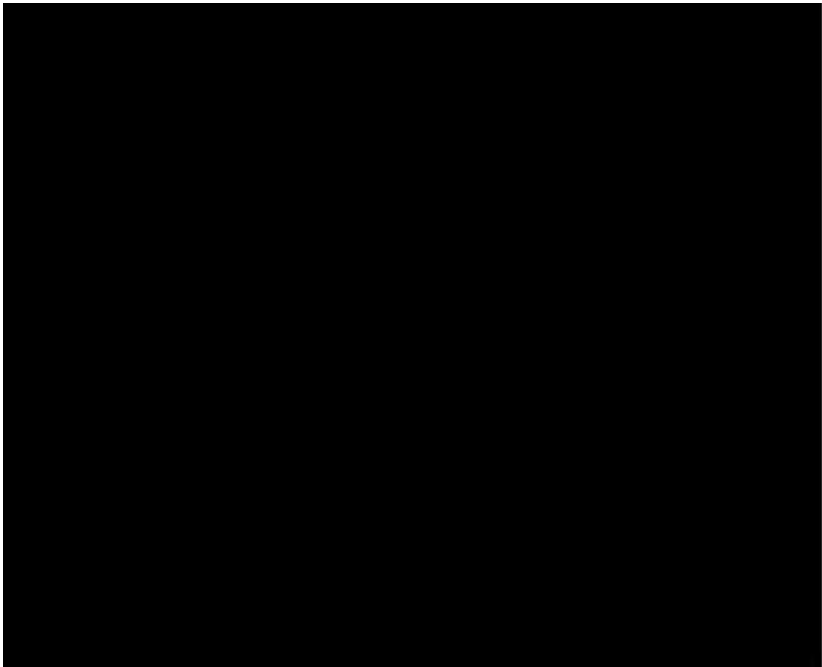
John Hancock was one of the town's representatives to receive and apply these instructions. It is at this point that he has been charged with inconsistency. But we must bear in mind that several months elapsed between ordering wines from Madeira for his own table and the arrival of the ship which brought the goods, and during this time the people have reached the conclusion above stated. Again, it should be remembered that John Hancock was the most wealthy man in the Province; and then, as now, what was regarded as great deprivation on the part of the wealthy was rated as luxury by those who were in more limited circumstances.

John Hancock had *everything* to lose and nothing to gain. During all these years of agitation, political honors could not have tempted him; for there was no prospect of anything more for him at the hands of his friends than he was freely enjoying. On the contrary, some of his associate agitators had everything to gain, and nothing to lose.

## CHAPTER XV

UNANIMOUS ELECTION TO THE GENERAL COURT. HANCOCK AND HALEY EXCHANGE PRESENTS. TOWN-MEETING ADJOURNED TO SOUTH MEETING HOUSE. TROOPS ARRIVE IN BOSTON TO COMPEL SUBMISSION. HANCOCK DENIES A BOLD ACCUSATION. NEW AGREEMENTS IN REGARD TO TRADE. GENERAL COURT REMOVED TO CAMBRIDGE. HANCOCK VINDICATES HIMSELF.

The year 1768 opens with but very slight prospects of revival of trade, and Hancock is greatly annoyed. He is too much engaged in public affairs to allow his private business to depress him. With others, he takes every



Our trade is under such Embarrassments & Impositions that we have come to a Resolution not to Import any more goods for some time unless we are Relieved & these Acts Repealed. We must inevitably be ruined. Our trade is not worth a man's pursuit; pray appear for us, for sure I am, can our trade be free & we at liberty to prosecute our Business as heretofore, it will redound much to the advantage of Great Britain, for my own part it is not worth my attentions to procure trade at present & if not altered I must decline it.

This renewed resolution to suspend importation was occasioned by the passage of the Revenue Acts of 1767. These required new movements on the part of the patriots. The popular leaders, among whom John Hancock was prominent, profiting by past experiences, strove to prevent excesses, and labored to advance their cause through the growth of an intelligent public opinion. They were vigilant and active in preventing overt acts when the newly created Board of Commissioners of Customs appeared in Boston.

They had no sympathy with mobs and riots, but acted not only in a spirit of fidelity to liberty, but also endeavored to promote law and order. Their movements were indorsed throughout the colonies, whence came in this extremity the message:—

“The liberties of a common country are again in danger, kindle the sacred flame that shall warm and illuminate the continent.”

It was because of the part taken by the patriot leaders that Boston was said by the Loyalists to be under the rule of a trained mob, of which James Otis and Samuel Adams were the two consuls, Joseph Warren one of the chiefs, and John Hancock, having great wealth and social and commercial influence, which he brought to bear upon their desired ends.

A century's changes cannot blind us to the fact that

there was not unanimity among the patriots, as to the best manner of procedure in opposing the Revenue Acts; but we must infer that these men in private council made plans that controlled the clubs, and that they had to do with government, they controlled the town-meetings; and the town-meetings controlled the legislature, and these controlled the Province.

Thus John Hancock's declaration to abandon trade worked itself out to a practical conclusion.

In the same letter to William Reeves, he notes the arrival of a "Peacock & Hen & two hampers of Beer," gifts from Mr. Haley. He later adds that "the Damask & Cabinet have arrived." These gifts and purchases added materially to the good appearance and comfort of the Hancock home on Beacon Hill. In the same freight he sends by Captain Scott to Mr. Haley "a view— of this town of Boston taken from our Castle, of which I beg your acceptance if agreeable to you."

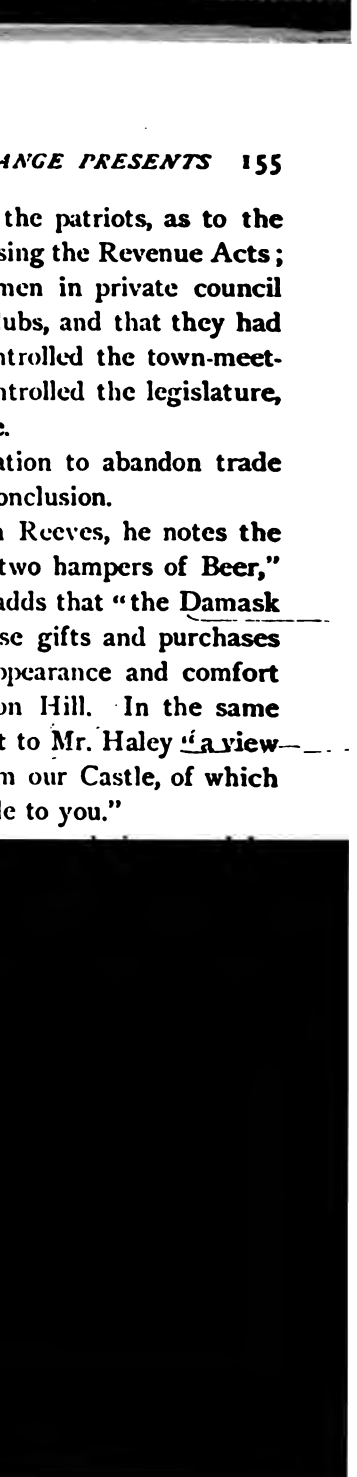


table soon follows from the London agent. Of this Hancock notes, "It is very neat, and you have my warmest thanks for it."

Hancock, who is still one of the selectmen, has enough to occupy him in the discharge of ordinary public duties; but a new trouble arises. The frigate *Romney*, of fifty guns, arrived from Halifax. The merchants believed it was there to enforce revenue laws. While this was agitating the minds of the people, Hancock's ship *Liberty* arrived, with a cargo of wine from *Madeira*, including the order of seven months ago for that extra quality for the Hancock house, and also a subsequent order. When lying at Hancock's wharf, on June 10, the tide-waiter, Thomas Kirk, went on board, and was followed by Captain James Marshall, who sailed for Hancock, with other of the friends and employees of the house. They confined Kirk below, until the wine was taken out, and no entry made of it at the custom-house or naval office. An entry was made the next morning, but was not credited by the officials, and it was resolved to seize the sloop. This was done amid much excitement, and she was removed to within range of the guns of the *Romney*. A mob assembled, and there was much destruction of property. The collector's boat was dragged to the Common and burned. But the saddest of all was the death of Captain Marshall, occasioned, no doubt, by the excitement of the seizure.

This was extremely trying to Hancock. The property was for him and the treasurer, and this trouble had seemed to be in their interest. Whether they ever enjoyed that wine which they had anticipated for months his letters do not tell, and the legal proceedings did not reveal the secret. It may have gone to excite the brains

of the angry mob, or been poured into the harbor. Hutchinson, an avowed enemy to Hancock, wrote that it was carted off in the night.

The selectmen called a town-meeting at once, and on June 14 there was such a crowd at Faneuil Hall that the meeting adjourned to the South Meeting House. A committee of twenty-one was chosen to wait on his excellency to request him to order the removal of the Romney. A sub-committee of three, one being John Hancock, went to see when the governor would be ready to hear



THE PROVINCE HOUSE

Under the present Burthen on trade no goods will be imported, for people here are determined to be more frugal. I am heartily sorry for the appearance of things. we have been grossly misrepresented. I wish matters were properly understood on your side & a candid attention given to them. I am sure this people would stand in a quite different light for I may say that we are as loyal as any in the King's Domain. We have now two Regiments, part of a third & a train of Artillery in this town ordered here, it is said, in consequence of advice recd. in England from hence, that there was a necessity for them. Such Representation must be made by those who are inimical to us & wish to see us in confusion. The Report of the Troops coming here alarmed the people much & more especially as we were patiently waiting & in hopes of soon finding the good effects of our petition to his majesty, but unused as we are to troops & notwithstanding the apprehensions of people & such a number of troops in this Town, the people are quiet and peaceable and not the least Disturbance has taken place.

It is a great grief to this people that they are Deprived of the Benefits of a General Assembly, more especially at this time, when there is need of the wisdom of the whole Province to conduct our Public affairs. Under these circumstances a large number of towns appointed severally their committees to meet & consult & advise to the most prudent measures that might be taken at this time of General Distress & accordingly they met & after many consultations & advisings to that which they judged would most promote the good of the whole, they Retired. A state of the whole is laid before the Public & I am confident the Convention of these Committees had a happy Effect, to quiet the minds of the people, but notwithstanding the good intentions of these Committees I dare say they will be much misrepresented. All I can say is that everything here has been conducted with the greatest order, on the part of the people, and I can't but hope that when things are really Known in England, we shall be relieved. I pray & I doubt not of Your Influence for us, and I wish soon to hear some good acct. from England. I begin now to look for Capt. White, but under the present circumstances our navigation & Trade must fail. The people are determined to stop Importing English goods, for really trade is so embarrassed & our Burthens so great that it is not worth a man's pursuit. I know not what to do with the Lydia, but that she return to Boston, in which case you will please to let her be Balasted with coals. I hope Capt. Folger is with you by this. If things do not



soon take a more favorable Turn I am determined to Contract my Business & sell my Navigation for I cannot carry on Business under the present circumstances of trade.

The convention referred to by Hancock was held in Faneuil Hall on Sept. 22, called by a committee acting for the town of Boston, of which John Hancock was one. The governor warned and threatened them, but they continued in session until the 29th.

The troops referred to by Hancock in the above letters were ordered to Boston at an interesting period of the American struggle. The movement against the Stamp Act, commendable as it was in the main, had phases that were much regretted by the patriots. Hancock, we have seen in his correspondence, positively declared himself against them, and against all riots, which, though common in England, were in violation of that reverence for law thoroughly ingrained in the American character.

ters were at New York, requesting troops, and to Commodore Hood at Halifax, asking for more ships.

General Gage was surprised at not receiving a request from the governor, but at once tendered Governor Bernard, at Boston, all the forces that he might need to preserve the public peace. But the governor said he did not want troops to quell a riot, but regarded them essential to the good of his country. He there showed the folly of trying to serve two masters.

The ships were sent by Commodore Hood, and moored near Castle William; but the governor was disappointed when he learned that his movements had only resulted in putting the troops in readiness to proceed to Boston on his requisition, which he did not give, but wrote, "The crisis awaits the arrival of the troops, and I now learn they are not coming."

He laid the offer of the commanding general before the Council, when it was seen that the members were unanimously against having troops sent to the port. In his despair Governor Bernard wrote to Lord Barrington that he could "no longer depend upon the Council for the support of the small remains of royal and parliamentary power now left, the whole of which had been gradually impeached, arraigned, and condemned under his eye." He also declared that "Boston had been left under a trained mob from Aug. 14, 1765, to this present July 23, 1768."

At length the die as to Massachusetts and Boston had been cast in the British Cabinet. It was decided to place a military force at the command of the governor; and General Gage at New York was notified to place troops at Castle William, and to station a detachment in Boston, and to keep a naval force in the harbor.

The governor claimed to be ignorant of this action, but did mention to one of the Council that he had a private notice that troops were ordered to Boston. This was enough to excite the people, who were at once notified of it, and petitioned Hancock and other selectmen to call a meeting. It was held on the following Monday; "thus openly and before all men, not covertly like a body of conspirators, the leading men of Boston prepared for the inevitable."

At length two regiments were brought to Boston by fifteen British men-of-war. It was on Sept. 29 that they took a well-chosen fighting-position around the north end of the quiet but glorious town.

The scene in the harbor on that first night was grand; and despite the forebodings of evil, many Boston men put out in their boats from their wharves to get a near view of the ships, while the many in their homes and sightly places witnessed the brilliant display of rockets shot off from the decks.

King Street (now State Street), to the Town House, where it halted until joined by the Twenty-ninth, when they marched to the Common. They were later joined by the Fifty-ninth Regiment and a train of artillery with two field-pieces.

It is difficult to imagine the feelings of the people when these troops were landed. It is no wonder they were received as unwelcome intruders, and the selectmen absolutely refused to grant them quarters. Although Boston Common was a cow-pasture, the people resented the use of it for the camp of one of these regiments.

The public indignation was at its height when Faneuil Hall was taken as quarters for one of the regiments, and no better feelings were engendered when Governor Bernard ordered the State House in King Street to be opened for their reception.

While the town was in this state of excitement, an attempt was made to injure the reputation of Hancock. He was on the Board of Selectmen who objected to the quartering of troops in the public buildings. He was a representative in the General Court, and in May previous had been chosen a member of His Majesty's Council, though negatived by Governor Bernard. While thus enjoying the confidence of the people, he was charged as endeavoring to secure from General Gage the contract to supply these unwelcome troops. Having learned from the Letter-book that Hancock had in former years corresponded with Colonel Dalrymple in regard to the supplies for the garrisons at Nova Scotia, which he was still supplying, it is not difficult to see how such a report was put in circulation by the Tory element of the Province. But Hancock's letter of Nov. 12 settles the matter:—

MESSRS. EDES & GILL: —

I observe in your last paper a piece signed Veritas, the writer of which says he had it from good authority, that a letter under my hand was published in a coffee-house at New York, requesting His Excellency Gen. Gage that I might supply the troops then expected, and which have arrived in this town. If such a letter has been produced there, or anywhere else, I declare it to be a forgery; for I have never made application to any for the supply of said troops, nor did I ever desire any person to do it for me. The person who produced the letter could have no other design but to injure my reputation, and abuse the gentlemen of New York. I therefore desire you would give this a place in your next, in which you will oblige

Your humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK.

BOSTON, Nov. 12, 1768.

Under date of Aug. 24, 1768, Hancock writes a letter to George Haley in which he says, —

Our trade is so burthened & our difficulties increasing so fast, that upon a meeting of our merchants it was thought prudent to stop the Importation of Goods, at least for one year, & this Resolution was generally adopted, that there will, of course, be no freights in

in a week I shall Transmitt you your whole acco<sup>t</sup> & send you an order for the full Ballance of that acco<sup>t</sup> when you will please to give up the Receipts my late Uncle gave you for the monies left in his hands.

My Aunt joins me in best compliments to you & I am with much esteem Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

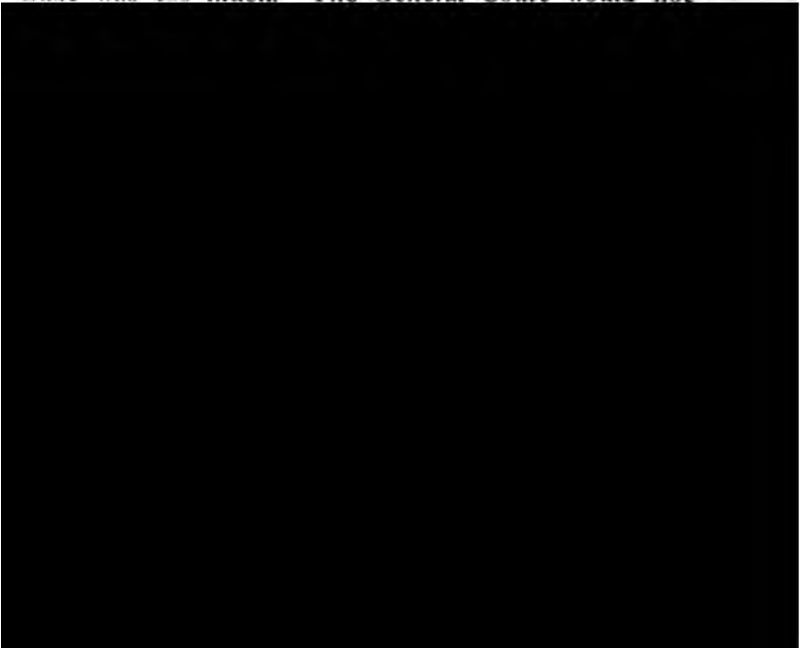
HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS POWNALL ESQ.

Hancock's recorded communications for the winter are but lamentations of the same nature, — words, perhaps, unconsciously penned from the burden of his own personal trials, as well as public concerns. The king's ships were in the bay, and his troops were in possession of the town; and the selectmen needed to be on the alert to protect the interests of the citizens. The town being considered in control of the army, the detested commissioners of customs returned, and the Romney again appeared in the bay. The case of the sloop Liberty was brought up, and Hancock was arrested. He employed John Adams as his counsel. The merchant had the sympathy of the patriotic people, and was re-elected as selectman in March, 1769. The legal proceedings against him increased his popularity; and in May he was re-elected a representative to the General Court, receiving the highest number of votes, even two more than Samuel Adams. On April 13, 1769, Hancock writes to Haley & Hopkins:—

We are in daily expectation of hearing from London the result of Petitions on our affairs. We have been basely misrepresented & can't but think they will be convinced of it & finally matters settled to the satisfaction of all.

The sincere desire on the part of the merchant doubtless gave rise to his expressed hopes, which must have been without any prospects to warrant them. Early in

May the town indorsed the proceedings of the merchants respecting the non-importation agreement, and recommended to the inhabitants not to purchase any goods of persons who had imported in vessels, lately arrived from Great Britain, not allowed by the agreement. When we consider that no man in the colony had so much at stake as Hancock, we almost wonder that his letters do not give some evidence of his relenting; but nothing of the kind appears. He labored assiduously to have Governor Bernard remove the troops from the town. At the session of the General Court, convened on the last Wednesday of May, nothing could be accomplished. There was a demand upon the Province for funds to pay for quartering the troops in Boston. The spirit of Hancock and his associate representatives from Boston was never more fully aroused.<sup>1</sup> To be asked to tax themselves to pay for an army which had destroyed their trade was too much. The General Court would not



The merchants of this town having come into a new agreement not to suffer any freight to be taken on board their vessels, I beg you would note the same, & prevent any of it except Coals, Hemp, Duck & Grindstones being put on board any of my vessels. You will please to inform my ship masters that they may conform themselves accordingly.

On Nov. 4 he adds:—

If the Revenue Acts are Repealed, I am hopeful you will be able to give Scott some freight.

He orders of Haley & Hopkins "50 barrels of very best pistol powder." Hancock was now placed in a most trying position. As a citizen, patriot, and town officer, he was doing all in his power to bring about desired ends by preventing importation. As a merchant, he was obliged to see these acts destroy what little business he had left, and he was bringing trouble upon his foreign agents and fast friends.

The embarrassment of John Hancock, when it came to a practical application of the non-importation agreement, can best be realized by the following letters.

Under the same date to Haley & Hopkins Mr. Hancock writes:—

I cannot now make a particular reply to your letter as I am wholly engaged in the accommodation of the late Importations, made here by Several Persons of this Town, which circumstances taking place at the only important moment that it should have been avoided, I must say Reflects great on the Importers. After many considerations of the Trade on this subject, the final Resolution was that nothing less would atone and be satisfactory than the Refusing the goods to London. The owners consented & this ship Scott has all the goods on board & I wish them a safe Landing in London. It gives me great uneasiness on your acct. that almost the whole of the goods that have arrived have been shipped by you and the trade were determined to pass Resolves which I was apprehensive would operate to your Disadvantage. I however was influential in abating the Resentment & actually made offer of the crates to carry

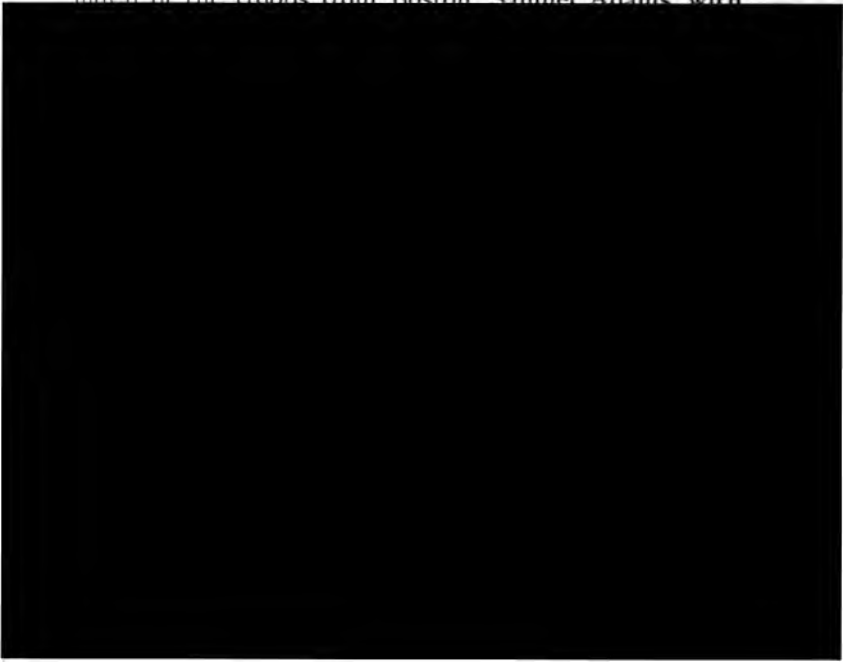




*GENERAL COURT REMOVES TO CAMBRIDGE 167*

home what goods Scott could not take & in this I really judged I was most essentially promoting your interests. But Scott takes the whole of the goods, so theres an end of it. However it is a most unlucky thing you shipped those goods out. Only consider what a Difference it make's as to the trade & conditions of Individuals. You build some up upon the fall & Ruin of others. We ought also to be on a footing & hope soon to see an Establishment of our trade on a solid foundation. With respect to this ship of mine, to accommodate the matter of Importation, I offered my ship, freight free, as she brought some of the goods you shipt the most from friendship to you & my own honor, I was induced to make the offer. I only mention this. I don't mean to desire anything contrary to your transactions, but if you should think well of it, as in the consequence, you will be more benefited than myself. As the offer I made established you whether it would not be reasonable that the expense be borne between us. These Returned goods are regularly cleared our Custom House & I can't think there can be the Least Difficulty in entering the ship in London. Should any arise, Trusting your Interposition to accommodate matters.

The massacre of March 5, 1770, resulted in the removal of the troops from Boston. Samuel Adams with



On June 29, 1770, Hancock addresses Harrison & Ansley thus:—

I hope e'er long matters will be so settled as that trade may revive, do convince your noble gentlemen at Helm of the ill consequences of a perseverance in their present measures, we are a people worth saving & deserving their notice and indulgence, as all we can possibly obtain centres on your side. We sincerely feel the grievance and are seeking redress. We can't always submit. It is a true saying "Oppression will make a wise man mad." Do stir for us. I know your disposition and that you will help us all you can. I have to express my grateful acknowledgements to your Mr. John Harrison for his very genteel present of the table cloth & napkins, which Mr. G. H. delivered me. They are excessive genteel and by far the best in the Country. I wish I may have it in my power to retaliate. I must wait long before I can hope a manufacture of this country to return, but you must take the will for the deed. My Aunt joins me in her Compliments to you & connection particularly to the Lady of Mr. G. H. with every wish in her favor. I am with respect,

Gentn,

Your assured friend &  
Obligd. humble servt.

On the same date he acknowledges a gift of cheese and beer, "which has come to hand in good order." On the same date to Haley & Hopkins he says, "Inclosed you have a small mem<sup>o</sup> of allowed articles which you will please to send by the return of the Lydia." On Nov. 5 he writes to Haley & Hopkins, and speaks of having been absent six weeks, and neglected correspondence, which he resumes. On Nov. 27 he sends to Haley & Hopkins for "1 hogsd Loaf sugar, single refined; 1 Bbl. double refined," for his own use. He has had a letter from George Haley in regard to the refusal of the cargo, which was returned with a long explanation and apology. He replies to it on Dec. 27, 1770, thus:—

I shall not dwell on the subject which particularly occasioned your private letter to me. Only say, what I can strictly and solemnly declare that in the whole of my conduct during the late struggle here I was actuated solely by a principle of effecting the good of my Country, and sincerely thought a strenuous perseverance in the non-importation would have that effect, and indeed it is still my opinion, had there been a general attention to that object, it would have worked out at least some good for us; but as things have turned out, I hope all will be for the best, and I am disposed to acquiesce and heartily wish a perfect Harmony and reconciliation may take place. I am much obliged to you for your very generous offers in regard to the freight of the returned goods by Scott, and upon mature consideration I most desire you will think no more of it. I believe upon my own plan I should bear it, and I am willing to bear it, especially as my sole motive was the prospect of happy consequence resulting from it to my town and Country; however, sir, I acknowledge my great obligation to you in that Instance, as also for your strict attention to my interests in all my concerns, and hope our correspondence may continue for a long time to mutual satisfaction. In the matter of non-importation I individually have been most fully, freely and cruelly used, but the particulars I forbear

sale, in which at all times I am disposed to acquiesce, being fully convinced of your attention to my interests. . . .

I fear you will think me rather guilty of Intrusion with my navigation, having so often occasion to request your favour with respect to freight for my vessels. In the case of the *Taoli*, beg to say that if without interfering with your more particular connections, you could give the *Taoli* a freight back to Boston, I should take it a singular favour, but upon the whole, if a freight back cannot be had & *Brig* will not fetch £800 sterling or more, I must ask the favr. of you to send her to Lisbon for a load of salt to bring to Boston, which you will please to conduct for me. I give Capt. Hall orders accordingly, and in case of a war, please to Insure £800 on the *Brig* the whole voyage, as also the amount of the Salt Cargo, and if a war, please to keep my navigation fully insured, Goods and freight; this you will please to note. Since my last I have disposed of my ship *John* & her *West India* cargo, having met with an offer that pleased me. I have a new ship of 200 tons built in this town which I shall fix in her room & shall Despatch her to you the first of the Spring. In her Mr. Gilbert Harrison returns to England.

He sends an order for goods for a shop to be set up. He is apparently actively engaged through the spring months of 1771, and interests himself in behalf of several men who wish to set up business in shops. On Oct. 11, 1771, he says in a letter to his agents at London: "I have not been able to attend to any business since April last." He complains of poor trade, and declares that he will not import to a town so stocked that things are sold many times under the cost. In closing he says:—

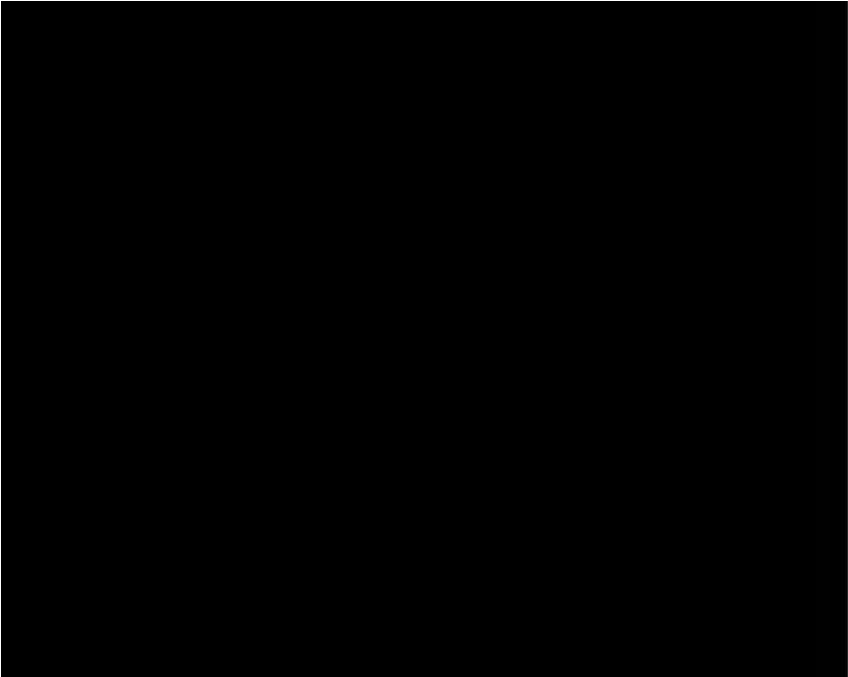
I am not without a prospect of seeing you & my friends in London, with the Leave of Indulgent Providence, by the middle of June next, having nearly Determined with Mr. Bowes & your G. H.'s friend Brattle to embark on board *Scott*, on his return next spring.

Hancock had set up his brother Ebenezer in business; but he had met the fate of many others, and failed.

Hancock, however, determines to venture again. He says:—

These goods are for my brother, whom I am determined to establish in Business again in hopes he may better succeed, & over whom I shall be careful to keep a watchful eye.

It is gratifying to note this kindly interest which John Hancock manifested in the business career of his only brother, Ebenezer. It lasted through the life of the more wealthy merchant. We find that the Continental Congress, of which John Hancock was president, on June 12, 1776, made choice of Ebenezer Hancock as deputy paymaster-general for the eastern department, and his headquarters were in Boston.



## CHAPTER XVI

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Thomas Hutchinson has been commissioned as chief executive, and John Hancock is still a representative from Boston in the General Court. Hancock writes:—

BOSTON, *July 7, 1772.*

GENTN: Your favr by Lydia I duly recd. & note the Contents. I have been for some time past and still am so engaged in our General Assembly that I cannot now particularly Reply to your last favr. but shall by next; I have only time to Inclose you Invo &

Bill Ladg. of Tar & Staves by the Lydia, Captain Hall, to your address, which you will please to dispose of & credit me the proceeds. You have Inclosed a Naval Store Bill. This is a poor Cargo, but what little oyl has been at market has been held so high say £32. sterlg, that I dar'd not to purchase, but thought it most Eligible to wait the Event of the fall Fishing, tho indeed there has been but a Trifle at market. I have delivered to Capt. Hall the Size of Glass with directions for a New Meeting house Building in this town. I have directed Capt. Hall to deliver to you & I am to desire You will please to order it of the best quality, well packed & exactly conformable to the pattern & directed to ship to me by Scott or one of my vessels, Boxes marked I H K, charged to my accott, with separate Invoice

MESSRS. HALEY & HOPKINS.

Your very humble servt,

The order of glass was for the Brattle-street Church, to which Hancock was giving liberally, the society being that with which Madam Hancock and her family worshipped. The corner-stone had already been laid, and the name of Hon. John Hancock had been chiselled on

*This was evidently in recognition of his gift the*

was made in the same month with that to the Brattle-street Church.)

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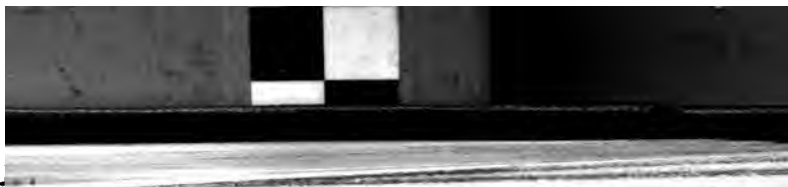
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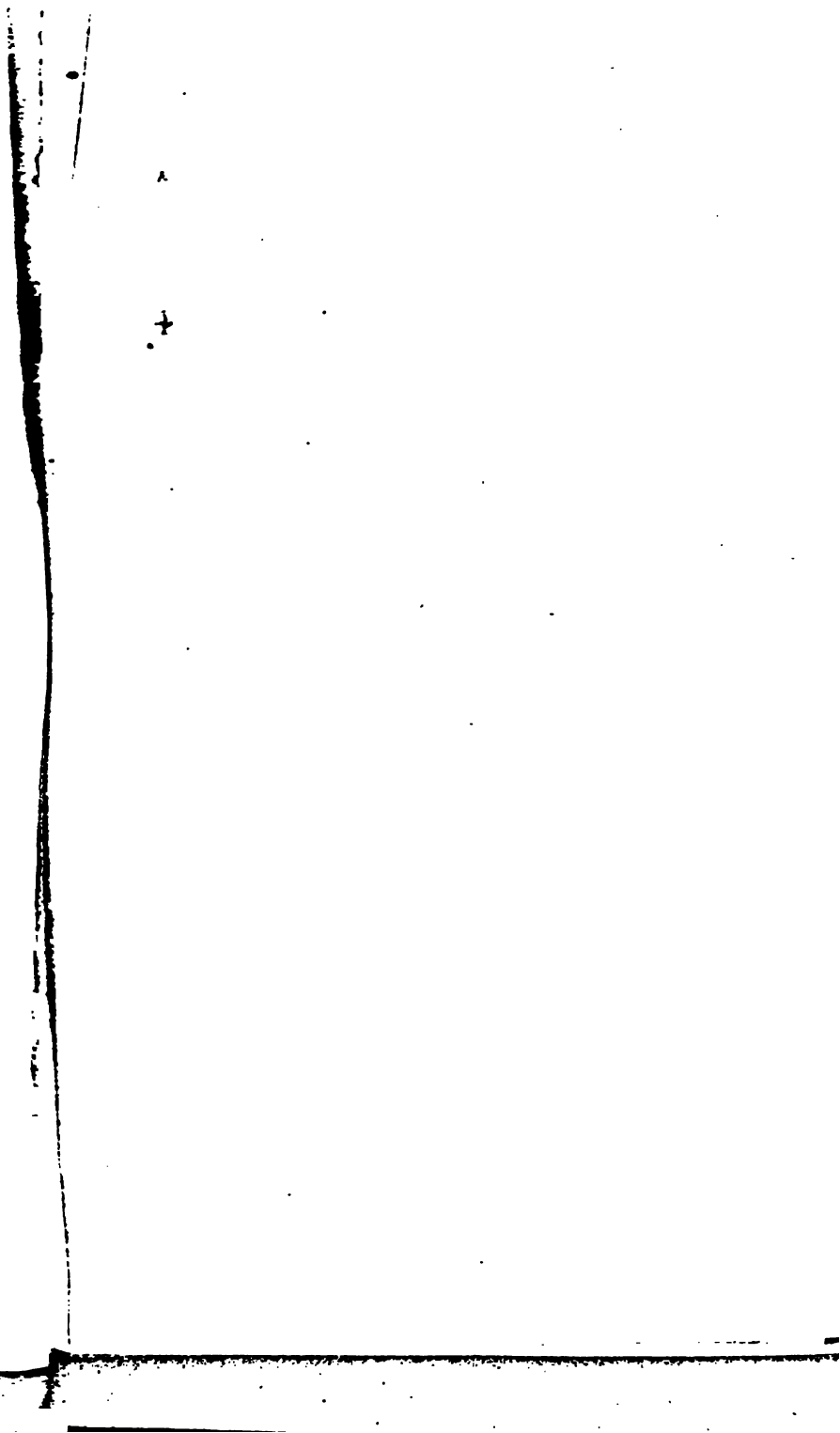
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ALL, A LOYALIST, MEDFORD.  
Hall, now somewhat fallen to decay.





purpose. This was ordered to be kept near Hancock's wharf. x

A letter of July 7, 1772, affords a hint of the condition of business and of the engagements of Hancock:—

By next oppory, I shall send you accott. of sales of Your Sugar & Beer. I am now prevented & as I have been for some time & still am so engaged in our General Assembly that I must beg you excuse me that I cannot be more particular but by next will be explicit & particularly reply to your favr.

I am sorry to tell you I have no prospect of a sale of Your Linens &c I cannot Get the sterlg cost of these & they will not raise the money unless sold at auction w<sup>ch</sup> must be attended with a great loss. The Town is so full of Goods that they are sold to loss, do give me directions what to do with them, Tho I will strive the Fall Season to Dispose of them without Loss — I shall write you fully in a few days.

I am with Esteem Sir

Your very humble servt.

HENRY CRUGER, Esq.

On Nov. 4, 1772, Hancock pauses in his official busi-

On May 17, 1773, Palfrey writes because of the absence of John Hancock.

The letter to Haley & Hopkins shows that Mr. Hancock is still supplying the garrison at Nova Scotia. He has been elected to the command of the Independent Cadets, well known as the governor's guard. The public announcement was as follows:—

“His Excellency, the Captain-General has been pleased to commissionate John Hancock Esq., to be Captain of the Company Cadets with the rank of Colonel.”

He enters upon the duties of the office regardless health, and advertises as follows:—

“Wanted. Immediately—For His Excellency's Company Cadets. Two Fifers that understand Playing. Those that are masters of musick, and are inclined to engage with the Company are desired to apply to Col. John Hancock.”

In Hancock's absence William Palfrey writes:—

BOSTON, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1773.

GENT.: I wrote you the 5<sup>th</sup> inst pr. Calif acquainting You Coll<sup>o</sup> Hancock's intention to send Scott out with a load of Naval Stores, with which the Haley is now loaded, and Inclos'd You his Inv<sup>o</sup> & Bill of Lading for 1462 barrell of Tar, also a Naval Store Bill. You will doubtless dispose of this Cargo for Mr. Hancock's best Interest & when sold please to Credit him for the net proceed

The Coll<sup>o</sup> has left no directions with me respecting the sale of the Ship, in case a saving price should offer. I therefore beg leave to refer You to his former Letters on that subject by which you will please to govern yourselves. I know he thinks her too large for the Trade, although she has hitherto been pretty successful, this I have been greatly owing to Your kindness.

Madam Hancock desires her best compliments to your Lady & Families, with her sincere wishes for the recovery of Miss Hale's health, in which she is heartily joined by

Gent<sup>r</sup> Your oblig'd & most

Obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup> W. P.

MESS. HALEY & HOPKINS.

Under the same date, to Harrison & Ansley, Mr. Pal-frey writes : —

Coll<sup>o</sup> Hancock has lately been so greatly indisposed that he has not been able to reply to your several favors.

He is now on a journey to Connecticut as well for the recovery of his health as to transact some public business relative to the partition Line between this Province and New York.

I take the Liberty, in his absence, to inclose you a memoranda for a few goods for the mark H. & P., which you will please to compleat & send out by the Return of the Haley. He begs your particular attention to the Quality & price of each article, that in the sale we may be at least upon a footing with our neighbors. We expect Mr. Hancock back in a few days, and if his Health will permit he purposes to write you particularly by the first opportunity. Madam Hancock desires her best respects to your G. H. & Lady & to your Gent'n. respectively. My compliments to your J. H., Mr. Tho. Harrison & Mr. Ansley, Mr. G. H. & Lady & all friends.

I am with great esteem,

Gent'n., your most obed't. serv't.,

W. P.

had not been a pound to be procured in Boston for many weeks. The bell was rung for the first time Oct. 28, 1774.

On Dec. 21, 1773, he writes to his London agents:—

We have been much agitated in consequence of the arrival of the Tea Ships by the East India Comp., and after every effort was made to induce the consignees to return it from whence it came & all proving ineffectual, in a very few Hours the whole of the Tea on Board Bruce, Coffin & Hall<sup>1</sup> was thrown into the salt water. The particulars I must refer you to Capt. Scott for; indeed I am not acquainted with them myself, so as to give a Detail. Capt. Loring in a Brig with the remainder of the Tea is cast on shore at the back of Cape Codd. Philadelphia & York are Determined the Tea shall not land. I enclose you an extract of a letter I Rec'd. from Phila.; by which you will see the spirit of that people. No one circumstance could possibly have taken place more effectively to unite the Colonies than this manouvre of the Tea. It is Universally Resented here & people of all ranks detest the measure. Our papers & Dr. Williamson, who is passenger in Scott, will inform you many circumstances. I Determine if my Oyle gets up tomorrow my Brig. Lydia shall depart in six days. I shall recommend her to be sold.

The information which Mr. Hancock, in the above letter, says he received from Philadelphia, was doubtless brought by his trusted agent, William Palfrey.

While Hancock is silent at this point, his friend Andrews writes, under Dec. 1:—

Having just returned from fire club, and am now, in company with the two Miss Masons and Mr. Williams of your place [Philadelphia], at Sam. Eliot's, who have been dining with him at Col. Hancock's, and acquaints me that Mr. Palfrey sets off Express for New York and Philadelphia at five o'clock to-morrow morning to communicate ye transactions of this town respecting the tea.

<sup>1</sup> The "Tea-ships" were Dartmouth, Eleanor, and Beaver. Francis Rotch owned the Dartmouth, the first to arrive in Boston, with James Hall as captain; James Bruce was captain of the Eleanor, and Hezekiah Coffin of the Beaver. It is probable that William Rotch, brother to Fran-

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Of the arrival of the tea-ships he says : —

It has caus'd ye most spirited and firm conduct to be observ'd that ever was known, the regularity and particulars of which proceedings Mr. Palfrey will be able to tell you. The consignees have all taken their residence at the Castle, as they still persist in their refusal to take the tea back. Its not only ye town but the country are unanimous against the landing it, and at the Monday and Tuesday meetings, they attended to the number of some hundreds from all the neighboring towns within a dozen miles, — 'twould puzzle any person to purchase a pair of p—ls in town, as they are all bought up, with a full determination to repell force to force.

The above letter, penned by John Andrews, and before published, shows the quiet and expeditious manner in which John Hancock exerted himself for the public good at this important time. He must have had a deep personal interest in the tea trouble, but is silent upon his private interests ; he puts his strength into the welfare of the public.

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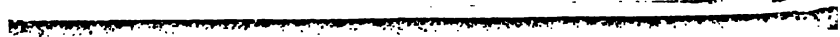


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*HANCOCK DELIVERS MASSACRE ORATION* 183

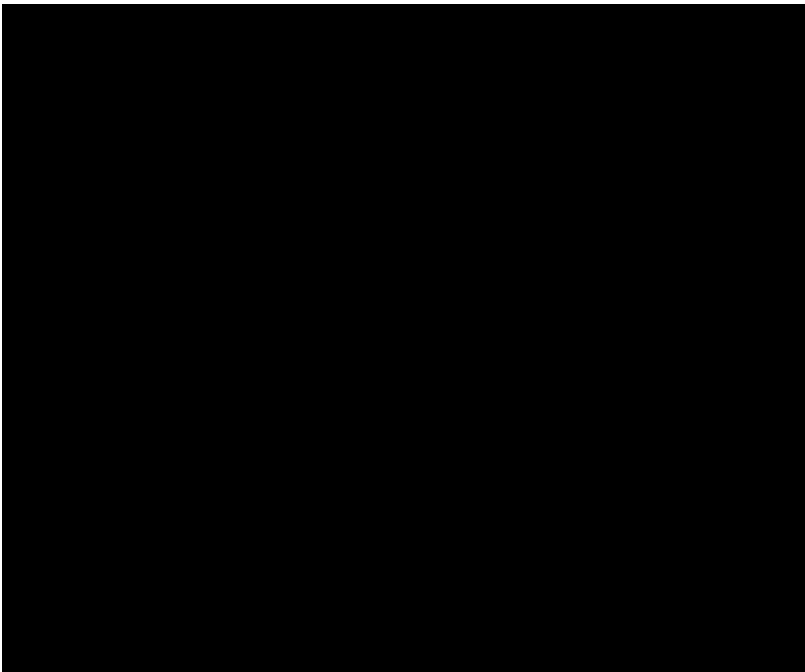
be kind enough to ship **Twenty Tons of good Hemp & Forty chaldrons of Coals, also Fifty pieces of Russia Duck.** If his Health will permit he intends to write you himself by a vessell which will sail from hence in a few days.

I am Gent. Your most hble Servt.

WM. PALFREY.

MESSRS. HALEY & HOPKINS.

Jan. 26, 1774, was the date of the opening of the session of the General Court of which John Hancock was a member from Boston, having received all but two of 419 votes cast. It was a critical time, and the duties were exhausting; but Mr. Hancock is found assuming the added responsibility of presiding at the town-meeting, and of delivering the massacre oration of March 5, 1774. His bold utterances at this time gave great offence to the executive, and more especially to the officers of the standing army. A copy of the oration was requested of Mr. Hancock for publication. (See Appendix II.)



vate business, as witnesseth the following document, in possession of Mr. John M. Graham of Boston.

Wm. John Lowden, Boston March 25. 1776  
 Sir Please to pay to Mr. Merrill  
 My or order One hundred & Fifty pounds  
 Lawfull Money, which sum shall be paid  
 to the credit of your Acct. for the said sum  
 Sir of our humblest  
 John Hancock

On Wednesday, May 10, Mr. Hancock experienced the renewal of the confidence of the voters of the town by a unanimous re-election to the General Court; his associates being Thomas Cushing, Samuel Adams, and William Phillips.

It was at an adjourned session of this meeting that the town took action in regard to the "Edict of a British Parliament for Blocking up the Harbor of Boston and annihilating the trade of this town."

John Hancock now sees the ruin which he has so often predicted about to visit the town. But there is a glimmer of hope in the departure of Governor Hutchinson, and the arrival of Governor Gage; yet it soon goes out in despair.

It was the duty of Colonel Hancock and his company to receive and escort His Majesty's representative to the State House. He landed at Long Wharf on May 19, and received due honor at the hands of Colonel Hancock and the Cadets.

Gage was proclaimed governor amid the acclamations of the people. They all partook of a bountiful entertainment at Faneuil Hall, when the new governor expressed himself as aware of the unwelcome errand he came upon, but said, as he was a servant of the Crown, he was obliged to see the Act put in execution. His words were carefully followed by John Hancock and the leaders in the patriotic movements, who also watched each subsequent act of official authority.

Although the Letter-book affords us no light upon the movements of Hancock at this critical time, the blank pages are forcible reminders of the man too much engrossed to place his thoughts upon paper. No more important subjects ever agitated the minds of the men of Boston than those discussed in John Hancock's counting-room and other patriot headquarters.

We can imagine the indignation of the Cadets when,



Governor Gage met the assembly, and informed them that he had "the king's particular commands for holding the General Court at Salem;" accordingly he adjourned the Legislature to Salem, there to meet on Tuesday, the 7th of June. This was because of the enforcement of the Port Bill, which took effect before the Legislature came together again. But Hancock and other representatives had not been idle; and when they reassembled at Salem they made it their first business to protest against this adjournment, and prepared their answer to the governor's speech. This session, noted for lack of harmony, continued until the 17th of June, and was then dissolved by the governor's proclamation, read on the stairs of the Representative Chamber by Secretary Flucker, the door having been closed against him. But this act of His Excellency was not until after the representatives had passed resolutions, appointing John Hancock and others as delegates to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, and made appropriation to defray their expenses.

John Hancock consequently acted in the last legislative assembly regularly convened in Massachusetts under writs issued by a governor appointed by the Crown.

The distress of the summer months was made doubly trying by the fears of the winter on the part of the poor. The merchants were obliged to see their ships idle at the wharf and their warehouses vacant. But Hancock was fully occupied as one of the selectmen in attending the meetings of the Board held from week to week to settle the many new questions arising in the town. He was conspicuous by his absence at the meeting of Aug. 13, called by request of Governor Gage, when His Excellency notified the Board "that he had received from





E. CONCORD.  
assembled.

WRIGHT TAVERN.



England the two Acts of Parliament lately passed in which was inserted a clause forbidding the calling of town-meetings without special license from the governor." But this did not disturb those far-seeing selectmen, who had two town-meetings now alive by adjournment.

Hancock's vigilance, as a selectman, in the public interests, only slackened when he was called to duty as a representative.

Governor Gage's order for the General Court to convene on the 5th of October, although subsequently countermanded, resulted in an assembly of ninety of the representatives. These resolved themselves into the Provincial Congress, of which John Hancock was made chairman, and Benjamin Lincoln was chosen clerk.

They then adjourned to meet at Concord on the following Tuesday. When reassembled, the chairman and clerk were made president and secretary respectively.

Thus they went on step by step until the record of the First Provincial Congress was completed on Dec. 10, 1774.

The interim between this adjournment and the assembling of the Second Congress afforded Mr. Hancock no rest. He appears immediately with the selectmen devising plans for the control of the small-pox, which the army brought to the town.



HUBBARD HOUSE, CONCORD.

(Where John Hancock lived when at Provincial Congress.)

So urgent was this duty that they met on Sunday, and prepared a notice for print in the papers of the following morning, in order that the townspeople might be relieved of their anxiety. But the disease was not easily suppressed; and the selectmen were in session daily, and Hancock is recorded as being in attendance.

During these weeks of anxious care, there were strange scenes in the vicinity of the Hancock mansion; for the king's army was in camp on the Common, and

its movements by day or night were easily detected by the occupants of that famous dwelling. Among the frequent guests of Madam Hancock, during that memorable winter of 1774-1775, was Dorothy Quincy, who in her old age, as Madam Scott, said she well remembered hearing Earl Percy's voice when drilling the regulars near the Hancock mansion.

The Second Provincial Congress opened at Cambridge on Feb. 1, 1775; and John Hancock was there in the service of Boston. He was unanimously elected as the president of that body, and one of a committee to consider and report "the state and circumstances of the Province." On the fourth day of that session we find John Hancock putting the motion "that the secretary be directed to write Col. Roberson, desiring him to deliver the four brass field pieces, and the two brass mortars now in his hands, the property of the Province.

Holbrook's lame foot was carefully placed, was the one hiding-place undisturbed. Hence schoolmaster, boys, and other patriots had the satisfaction of knowing that they had acted an important part in saving two of the guns, and in carrying into execution the resolve of the Provincial Congress; for those guns were in service through the whole war, and are now seen on the wall inside of the top of Bunker Hill Monument, known as the Hancock and Adams.

THE HANCOCK:

SACRED TO LIBERTY.

This is one of four cannon which constituted the whole train of Field Artillery possessed by the British colonies of North America at the commencement of the war on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 1775.

THIS CANNON

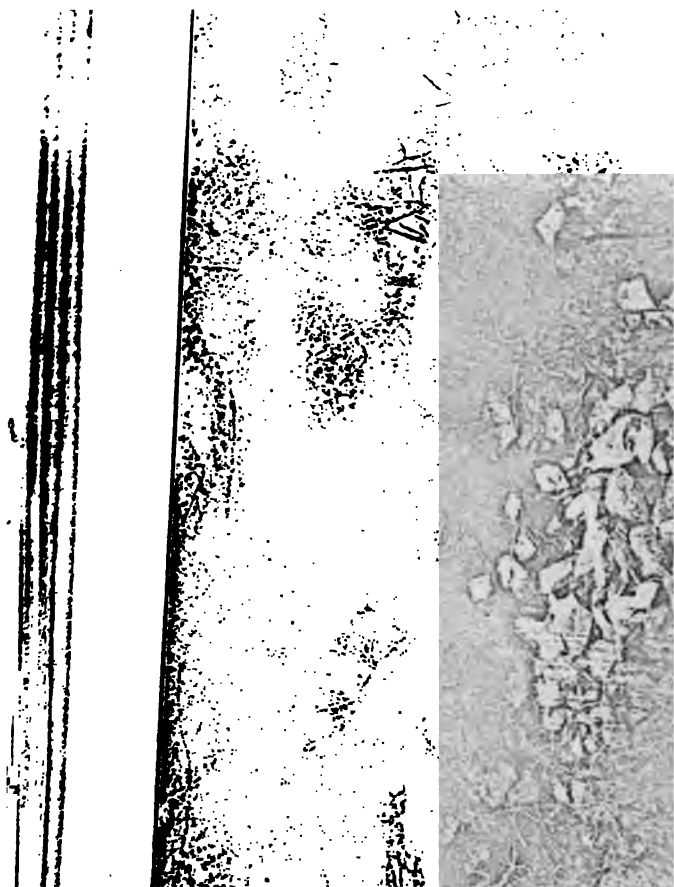
and its fellow, belonging to a number of citizens of Boston, were used in many engagements during the war. The other two, the property of the Government of Massachusetts, were taken by the enemy.

---

By order of the United States, in Congress  
assembled May 19, 1788.

These two guns were used many years in the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery," and by them the Adams was burst in firing a salute.

It was in this session of the Provincial Congress that John Hancock and his associates, chosen by the former Congress as delegates to the Continental Congress, "were authorized and empowered, with the delegates from the other American Colonies, to adjourn from time to time, and place to place, as they shall judge necessary, and to continue as delegates until the end of







ar." The first session adjourned on Feb. 16; and  
and its president, John Hancock, back in Boston on  
with the selectmen. On March 9 he was with  
officials in their meeting "to examine into the  
of this morning when a countryman was tar'd and  
red and carried thro' the Streets of this Town by  
the Party of Soldiers of the 47. Regiment headed  
Mr Nesbit." 1

the meeting of March 11, Hancock was in atten-  
when Ditson's case was freely discussed, and a  
ordered to be sent to the selectmen of Billerica.  
he was absent on the 14th, when the officials of  
own appeared before the Boston authorities.

the 15th and 18th he was in the sessions. We  
wonder at this; for, on the previous evening,  
Hancock's elegant seat, situated near the Com-  
was attacked by a number of officers, who with  
swords, cut and hacked the fence before his house  
most scandalous manner and behaved very abusively,  
breaking people's windows, and insulting every per-  
son they met." With these scenes fresh in his mind,  
we may imagine with what intensity of feeling on the

an anxious face at Concord on the morning of the 22d, when the second session of the Provincial Congress assembled. But with an unflinching purpose he entered upon the duties of the president of the Assembly, and was faithful at his post until the adjournment on the 15th of April.

Knowing the condition of affairs in Boston, we conclude that Hancock did not return to his home during the intermissions of the session, but that he went to the Lexington parsonage, where his cousins, Rev. and Mrs. Jonas Clark, gladly welcomed him and his associate.

Turning again to the Hancock mansion, we are not surprised to find Madam Lydia Hancock anxious, especially now that her nephew, the master of the house, is absent, and serving as president of the Provincial Congress, making plans to thwart the king's army. The modest parsonage at Lexington offers a safe retreat for her; and in company with her young friend, Miss Quincy, she is driven in her coach to the home of her niece, where the family are once more together. John Hancock was on familiar ground when at this Lexington home; for, as we have seen in the introduction, he spent much of his time in childhood with his grandparents at this place. Upon the adjournment of the Congress at Concord he went immediately to Lexington; and Paul Revere has told us that he carried a message from Dr. Warren to Hancock and Adams on the following Sunday, whom he found at the home of Rev. Jonas Clark.

I have sat in that old parsonage until I have seen in fancy the notable group of that April night, as they gathered about the time-honored hearthstone.

The last rays of the setting sun have left the dampness

of the meadows to gather about the home; and each guest and family occupant has gladly taken seats within the house, while Mrs. Jonas Clark has closed the shutters, added a new fore-log, and fanned the embers to a cheerful flame. Although the venerable widow is partially hidden in the shadow, the flickering candle reveals the sadness of her countenance when the condition of affairs in Boston is discussed. But the shadow is dispelled for a time as Madam Hancock tells her nephew and other guests of the visit that day from her pastor, Rev. Dr. Cooper, who fled from Boston on the 16th of April, and went out to Weston, and had taken a trip to the Lexington parsonage, and dined there with her and Rev. and Mrs. Clark. The stern and inflexible Samuel Adams hears it all, and declares his purpose with undaunted zeal, finding in Rev. Jonas Clark one of

we trace John Hancock, as with Samuel Adams and Miss Quincy, he is driven over to Woburn Precinct, Burlington, where the company are welcomed by Madam Jones at the Precinct Parsonage. But Hancock was not permitted to remain there long. An excited messenger brought a false alarm; and when about to sit down to a bountiful meal, the two patriots were conducted by Cuff, the parsonage negro slave, away through the woods to the home of Amos Wyman,<sup>1</sup> in an obscure corner of the town of Billerica, just at Bedford line. How Hancock's scarlet cloak must have aroused the songsters of that April morning, as his graceful figure glided through the forest! and how welcome must have been the sight of that rude home as they approached the door, which swung open as Cuff pulled the latch-string, and proudly ushered in the noted men! The early start, bracing April breeze, and savory smell of promised food at the parsonage, conspired to arouse an appetite in these men that could not be longer suppressed. The modest housewife gave her unaccustomed guests the best she had. Cold boiled salt pork, cold potatoes, and brown bread were strange viands for Hancock; but he ate them with a relish that was not forgotten when he was again master of his own home.

<sup>1</sup> The Wyman estate of 1775 is now owned by Mr. George Bennett of Burlington. Through his permission, patriotic citizens of Billerica have taken steps to add to the natural and historical attractions of the place. The old well has been restored to its former usefulness; and a bowlder, near the old hearth-stone, bears the following inscription:—

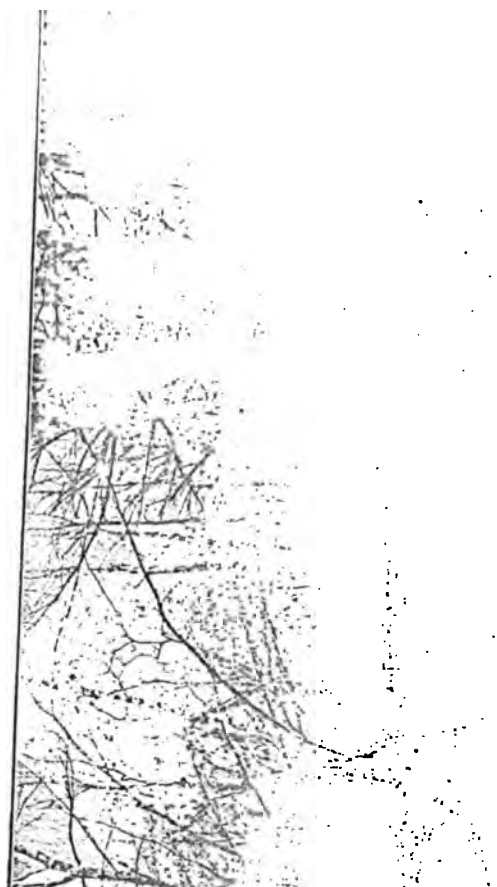
AMOS WYMAN HOMESTEAD.

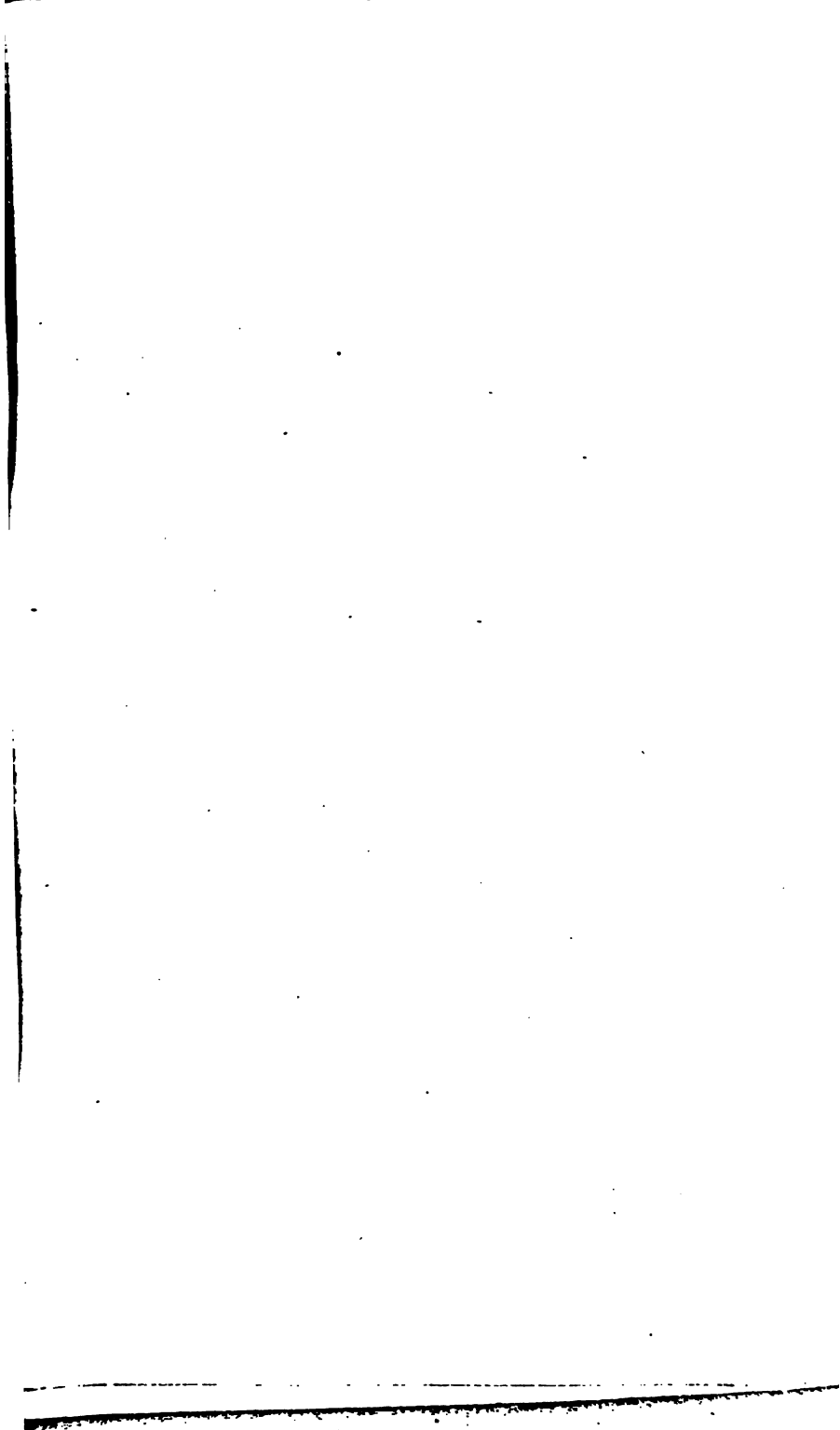
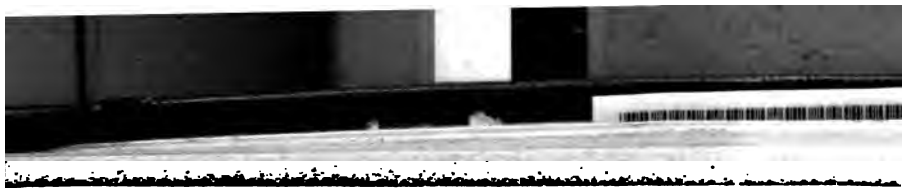
HERE

JOHN HANCOCK AND SAMUEL ADAMS

FOUND REFUGE FROM THE BRITISH SOLDIERS, APRIL 19, 1775.

THIS INSCRIPTION PLACED HERE BY THE BILLERICA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1895.





How long John Hancock and his companion remained in seclusion is not known ; but wisely directed caution must have kept them beyond the possible reach of General Gage, who was bent on their arrest, to be sent to England for trial.

## CHAPTER XVIII

JOHN HANCOCK CHOSEN PRESIDENT OF THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS. HE IS PROSCRIBED BY PROCLAMATION OF GENERAL GAGE. A LOVE-LETTER AND SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE.

THE third session of the Second Provincial Congress convened at Concord on April 22, and immediately adjourned to Watertown. But as Hancock was a delegate to the Continental Congress, to convene at Philadelphia on May 10, he did not again appear in that body.

His next appearance is told by the following letter to the Committee of Safety:—

[From *New England Magazine*.]

WORCESTER, *April 24, 1775.*  
*Monday Evening.*

GENTLEMEN: Mr. S. Adams and myself, just arrived here, find no intelligence from you, and no guard. We just hear an express has just passed through this place to you, from New York, informing that administration is bent upon pushing matters; and that four regiments are expected there. How are we to proceed? Where are our brethren? Surely, we ought to be supported. I had rather be with you; and, at present, am fully determined to be with you, before I proceed. I beg, by the return of this express, to hear from you, and pray, furnish us with depositions of the conduct of the troops, the certainty of their firing first, and every circumstance relative to the conduct of the troops from the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, to this time, that we may be able to give some account of matters as we proceed, especially at Philadelphia, also, I beg you would order your secretary to make out an account of your proceedings since what has taken place; what your plan is; what prisoners we have,



have of ours; who of note was killed, on both sides;  
 ls our forces, &c.

en in good spirits? For God's sake do not suffer the  
 de, until they have perfected the reduction of our ene-  
 n *must* be entered; the troops must be sent away,  
 ends are valuable, but our country must be saved.

rest in that town. What can be the enjoyment of that  
 obliged to hold it at the will of Gen. Gage or any one  
 t not your vigilance, your fortitude, and resolution.  
 ow how you proceed. We must have the Castle.

st be . . . Stop up the harbor against large vessels  
 know better what to do than I can point out. Where

g.<sup>1</sup> Are Mr. Paine<sup>2</sup> and Mr. John Adams to be with  
 e we to depend upon? We travel rather as deserters,  
 ot submit to. I will return and join you, if I cannot  
 n, as I want much to hear from you. How goes on

Who is your president? Are the members hearty?  
 er Mr. S. Adams and myself to all friends. God be

lemen, your faithful and hearty countryman

JOHN HANCOCK.

NTLEMEN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

the Lexington alarm, and were ready to share in the perils of the time. But how would the rest of the country regard the movement? Would they stand by Massachusetts in this extremity? It was such questions that disturbed the minds of these delegates to the Second Continental Congress. They were sure of New England; and as the Hancock coach rolled along through Connecticut, the occupants felt perfectly safe, but the attitude of New York was yet to be learned.

Hancock's letter to Miss Quincy supplies the information:—

[From "Family Memorials," by Edward E. Salisbury.]

NEW YORK, *Sabbath Even'g*, May 7, 1775.

MY DEAR DOLLY:—

I Arriv'd well, tho' Fatigued, at King's Bridge at Fifty Minutes after Two o'clock yesterday, where I found the Delegates of Massachusetts and Connect', with a Number of Gentlemen from New York, and a Guard of the Troop. I Din'd and then set out in Procession for New York, the Carriage of your humble servant of course being first in the Procession. When we Arriv'd within three Miles of the City we were Met by the Grenadier Company and Regiment of the City Militia under Arms, Gentlemen in Carriages and on Horseback, and many Thousand of Persons on Foot, the Roads fill'd with people, and the greatest Cloud of Dust I ever saw. In this Scituation we Entered the City, and passing thro' the Principal Streets of New York amidst the Acclamations of Thousands were set Down at Mr. Francis's. After Entering the House three Huzzas were Given, and the People by Degrees Dispers'd.

When I got within a mile of the City my Carriage was stopt. and Persons appearing with proper Harnesses insisted upon Taking out my Horses and Dragging me into and through the City, a Circumstance I would not have had Taken place upon any consideration, not being fond of such Parade.

I Beg'd and Intreated that they would Suspend the Design, and ask'd it as a favour, and the Matter Subsided, but when I got to the Entrance of the City, and the Numbers of Spectators increas'd to perhaps Seven Thousand or more, they Declar'd they would have the Horses out and would Drag me themselves thro' the City.

My Request, and I was oblig'd to apply to the Leading  
of the procession to intercede with them not to Carry  
into Execution; as it was very disagreeable to me.  
It last prevail'd upon and I proceeded. I was much  
thank'd for their good wishes and Opinion, in short no  
possibly be more notic'd than myself.

My Rode so fast and so many Miles you may well  
be much Fatigu'd, but no sooner had I got into the Room  
we were Visited by a great number of Gentlemen of  
Character in the city, who Took up the Evening.

At six o'clock I Sat down to Supper of Fried Oysters, &c.,  
then went to Capt. Sears's (the King Inn) and Lodg'd.  
At eight o'clock, went to the House first mention'd, Breakfasted,  
then went to Meeting, where I heard a most excellent Ser-  
mon by Mr. Livingston, Return'd to the same House, a most  
pleasantly provided.

At the Meeting, heard Dr. Rogers, a fine preacher. To-  
morrow we propose to Cross the Ferry. We are to have a  
Company in several Boats and a Number of the City Gentlemen  
are to go over. I can't think they will Dare attack us.  
The Militia Company of the City is to Continue under Arms  
at the Ferry here, and we have a Guard of them Night and Day  
at the Ferry. This is a sad mortification for the Tories, things

It is apparent that Hancock's ideas, when at Worcester, of the duty of the Provincial Congress, were exactly those of that body left by him; for, as soon as the Continental Congress assembled, a packet was received from Massachusetts Congress, containing copies of the depositions sent to London, of the address to the inhabitants of Great Britain, and a letter to Benjamin Franklin, Esq.

As we have been interested in the noted men shown by the Letter-book to have been in touch with Hancock at Boston, so we cannot fail to have an interest in those with whom he came in contact through the opening and progress of the Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia. There was George Washington from Virginia, whom Hancock had met in Boston in the year 1756. Richard Henry Lee, a close companion of Colonel Washington, was early introduced to Hancock by John Adams, who had made the acquaintance of the Virginian at the former Congress. Peyton Randolph, the president of the former Congress, and also the one chosen to the honored seat for the Second Congress, was early presented to Hancock, the man who almost alone of the wealthy, aristocratic merchants of Boston had early espoused the side of opposition to Great Britain. Others from Virginia were Edmund Pendleton, Benjamin Harrison, and Richard Bland. Benjamin Franklin and Hancock met before the Congress assembled. They were both Massachusetts born, and now, as regards age and experience, stood in the relation of father and son. George Clinton and Robert Livingston from New York were soon on friendly relations with Hancock.

The late coming of Thomas Jefferson in place of Peyton Randolph, who was obliged to return to his home, brought another man to the side of Hancock.

... a different class of society, was  
in his presence.

It was during the early part of  
General Gage at Boston issued a pro  
pardon to all the rebels except Samu  
Hancock, "whose offences are of too  
to admit of any other consideration th  
punishment." It was a proscribed  
lected by this notable assembly as the  
Peyton Randolph retired. Benjami  
ducted John Hancock to the presidin  
ing as he went, "We will show Brit  
value her proscriptions."

Hancock's ability as a presiding offi  
ected in the Boston town-meetings, a  
position he merited much credit. It  
cock was in the chair that Washingto  
by John Adams as commander-in-chi  
nental army. Thus Virginia and Ma  
strengthening their early alliance. It  
ination that John Adams is credited  
ected in the countenance of Hanc  
resentment. Without questioning th  
Adams to penetrate to the feelin

It does not appear that Hancock joined the army under Washington, but the letter speaks for itself. Other and later evidence of Hancock's friendly regard for Washington is seen in the naming of his son John George Washington Hancock.

In May, Congress directed reprisals to be made, both by public and private armed vessels, against the ships and goods of the mother country, found on the high seas. By this act, known as privateering, Hancock saw that the Congress were in sympathy with him and other merchants who had for years been declaring that the commercial question was the one of great importance.

As the overburdened merchant, banker, or politician, leaves his office, and seeks relief in the quiet of domestic comforts, so we find the president of the Continental Congress, with mind distracted by private and public cares, turn for relief to the most common, trifling concerns of domestic life.

Lest we lose sight of that charming young lady last seen at the parsonage at Woburn Precinct, let us leave the arena of government, and follow her to Fairfield, Conn., where she is the guest at the house of Thaddeus Burr, and there receives a letter from her lover, John Hancock.

[From *New England Magazine*.]

PHILAD'A, 10th June, 1775.

MY DR. DOLLY: I am almost prevail'd on to think that my letters to my Aunt & you are not read, for I cannot obtain a reply, I have ask'd million questions & not an answer to one, I beg'd you to let me know what things my Aunt wanted & you, and many other matters I wanted to know, but not one word in answer. I Really Take it extreme unkind, pray my Dr. use not so much Ceremony & Reservedness, why can't you use freedom in writing, be not afraid of me, I want long Letters. I am glad the little things I sent you were agreeable. Why did you not write me of the top of the Um-

send a pattern shoe & stocking, I warrant I will  
close'd letter for your Father you will read, &  
you will observe I mention in it your writing you  
a few necessaries for Katy Sewall, what you  
have & Roy James, this only between you &  
Father I should be glad to hear from him, & I  
you will write me often & long Letters, I will  
will mend in future. Do ask my Aunt to make  
Watch String, & do you make up another & se  
out fast. I want some little thing of your doin

Remember me to all Friends with you as if  
upon & must obey.

I have sent you by Doctr Church in a paper I  
the following things, for your acceptance, & w  
wear, if you do not, I shall think the Donor is

2 pair white silk	}	stockings w
4 pr. white thread	}	I think will
1 pr. Black Satin	}	shoes, the o
1 p. Black Calem Co.	}	Shall be sen

1 very pretty light Hat

1 neat Airy Summer Cloak. (I ask Doctr. C

2 caps

1 Fann

I wish these may please you, I shall be gratit  
write me, I will attend to all your Commands.

Adieu my Dr Girl, and believe me to be wi  
Affection.

Yours without Reserve,

ing Aunt Lydia was a guest with Miss Quincy at the home of Thaddeus Burr; and had it not been for her presence, family history might have taken a different turn.

A nephew of their host, Aaron Burr, came as a guest to the home; and his magnetic influence soon had an effect upon the beautiful young lady guest. But the watchful aunt prevented the charmer from thwarting the Hancock family plans, and on the 28th day of the following August there was a great wedding at Fairfield. John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, and Miss Dorothy Quincy were joined in marriage in style befitting the family situation.

The noted couple went at once to Philadelphia, and took up their abode, thus providing a retreat for the weary president when he daily retired from the duties of Congress.

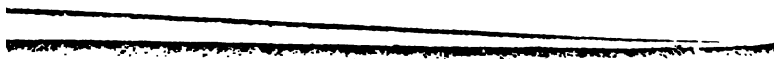
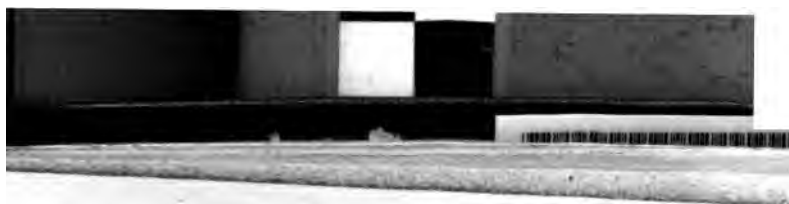
While it was not prudent for Hancock to return to Boston during the siege, he kept in touch with the patriots who were there, communication being kept up by the hand of his servant. See letter of John Adams to his wife:—

PHILADELPHIA, 29 May, 1775.

Our amiable friend Hancock, who, by the way, is our President, is to send his servant to-morrow to Cambridge. I am to send a few lines by him. If his man should come to you, to deliver this letter, treat him very kindly, because he is a kind, humane, clever fellow.







## CHAPTER XIX

S LETTER TO WASHINGTON IN REGARD TO BOM-  
G BOSTON. LETTER TO CANADA. REJOICING AT  
GTON'S REPORT OF THE EVACUATION OF BOSTON.  
NTS OF HANCOCK MANSION DURING THE SIEGE OF  
. HANCOCK DENOUNCES CHARGE AGAINST THE  
CES. HANCOCK AND HIS WIFE INVITE GENERAL AND  
WASHINGTON TO THEIR HOME AT PHILADELPHIA.  
ATION OF INDEPENDENCE. FLIGHT TO BALTIMORE.  
OF A DAUGHTER TO JOHN AND DOROTHY HANCOCK.  
CK'S APPEAL FOR PROTECTION OF NEW ENGLAND.

OUGH Hancock had a new-found treasure with  
Philadelphia, he turned at times with solicitude  
n where his property was at the mercy of the

check, and to surmount every obstacle that may be interposed between them and the darling object of their wishes. We anticipate, in our pleased imaginations, the happy period when the standard of tyranny shall find no place in North America.

In addressing General Philip Schuyler, after the surrender of Montreal, Hancock writes : —

You have hitherto risen superior to a thousand difficulties, in giving freedom to a great and an oppressed people. You have already reaped many laurels, but a plentiful harvest still invites you. Proceed, therefore, and let the footsteps of victory open a way for the blessings of liberty, and the happiness of a well-ordered government to visit that extensive domain. Consider that the road to glory is seldom strewed with flowers ; and that, when the black and bloody standard of tyranny is erected in a land possessed by freemen, patriots cease to remain inactive spectators of their country's fall.



GENERAL GEORGE  
WASHINGTON.

In a letter to General Montgomery, in regard to the surrender of Montreal, Hancock writes :

The Congress, utterly abhorrent from every species of cruelty to prisoners, and determined to adhere to this benevolent maxim till the conduct of their enemies renders a deviation from it indispensably necessary, will ever applaud their officers for beautifully blending the Christian with the conqueror, and never, in endeavoring to acquire the character of the hero, to lose that of the man.

Remembering that on March 17, 1776, General Gage, with the British army and a thousand or more Loyalists (Tories), abandoned Boston, and that Washington entered the evacuated town at once, we are curious to know how the good news affected the absent Boston merchant, John Hancock.

find in a letter of eight days later to the  
in-chief :—

and the honor of receiving yesterday yours of the 19<sup>th</sup>,  
the agreeable information of the ministerial troops hav-  
ing evacuated Boston, the partial victory we have obtained over  
the British quarter, I hope, will turn out a happy presage of a  
more successful one. Whatever place may be the object of their des-  
tination, must certainly give a sincere pleasure to every friend  
of the country to see the most diligent preparations everywhere  
made to receive them. What may be their views, it is, indeed,  
impossible to tell with any degree of exactness. We have all the  
reason to fear, from the rage of disappointment and revenge, to  
begeth. Nor have I any doubt that, as far as their power  
extends, they will inflict every species of calamity upon us. The  
success which has baffled their attempt against the Province  
of Massachusetts Bay will, I trust, defeat the deep-laid scheme,  
by which they were meditating against some other part of our country.  
The intelligence that our army had got possession of Boston,  
and that they had, I suppose, gave me heartfelt pleasure. I beg sir, you  
will be pleased to accept my warmest thanks for the attention  
you have shewn to my property in that town. I have only to  
add that Capt. Cazneau will continue to look after and take care

notice. I am with the fullest sentiments of Esteem. Sir Your very humble servt,

JOHN HANCOCK, Pres'd't.

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL WASHINGTON.

On Public Service

*Superscribed*

To HIS EXCELLENCY, GENERAL WASHINGTON,  
*Commander in Chief of the Army of the United Colonies, &c.*  
at Cambridge.

JOHN HANCOCK, by Mr. Hanson.

The official letter, with congratulations from Congress, under date of April 2, bears the signature of John Hancock.

Hancock's private letter to Washington furnishes an intimation of the facts which the reader interested in the Hancock mansion, must desire to know.

The conduct of Gage's troops about the premises, before the family vacated, made the members the more anxious in their absence. The property was intrusted to Captain Cazneau,<sup>1</sup> one of John Hancock's sailing-masters, who had no employment when the blockade went into effect. How far his vigilance may have been helpful, cannot be known; but the mansion was spared, although not without signs of the rough treatment of the officers who enjoyed its luxuriant furnishings, as a subsequent letter reveals.

This mansion was occupied soon after April 19, 1775, by Earl Percy, who took possession by order of General Gage. General Clinton was located there for a time. Both house and stables were in part occupied by the

<sup>1</sup> Captain Isaac Cazneau, of Huguenot descent, nephew of Paix Cazneau, who kept the Sun Tavern of Boston.

wounded brought over to Boston on the night succeeding the Battle of Bunker Hill.<sup>1</sup> ]

Hancock says on April 30, 1776:—

The unprepared state of the colonies, on the commencement of the war, and the almost total want of everything necessary to carry it on, are the true sources from whence all our difficulties have proceeded. This fact, however, furnishes a proof most striking of the weakness or wickedness of those who charge them with an original intention of withdrawing from the government of Great Britain, and erecting an independent empire. Had such a scheme been formed, the most warlike préparations would have been necessary to effect it.

This truthful analysis of the situation tallied with Franklin's statement to Lord Chatham just before April 19, 1775, "I never heard from any person the least expression of a wish for separation;" also with Washington's words in the previous October, "No such thing as

Continental Congress, on May 16, passed a resolution calling Washington to Philadelphia, in order to advise with them as to future movements. The expected visit gave Hancock an opportunity to express his kindly feeling towards Washington, which is seen in the following letter:—

I reside in an airy, open part of the city, in Arch Street and Fourth Street. Your favor of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. I received this morning, and cannot help expressing the very great pleasure it would afford Mrs. Hancock and myself to have the happiness of accommodating you during Your stay in this city. As the house I live in is large and roomy, it will be entirely in Your power to live in that manner you should wish. Mrs. Washington may be as retired as she pleases, while under inoculation,<sup>1</sup> and Mrs. Hancock will esteem it an honor to have Mrs. Washington inoculated in her house; and as I am informed Mr. Randolph has not any lady about his house to take the necessary care of Mrs. Washington, I flatter myself she will be as well attended in my family.

In short, sir, I must take the freedom to repeat my wish, that You will be pleased to condescend to dwell under my roof. I assure you, sir, I will do all in my power to render your stay agreeable, and my house shall be entirely at your disposal. I must, however, submit this to your determination and only add that you will peculiarly gratify Mrs. H. and myself, in affording me an opportunity of convincing you of this truth, that I am, with every sentiment of regard for you and your connections, and with much esteem, dear sir.

Your faithful and most obedient humble servant.

The result of the deliberations of Congress is learned from the following letter of July 6, 1776, to Washington:—

The Congress, for some days past, have had their attention occupied by one of the most interesting and important subjects that could possibly come before them, or any other assembly of men.

<sup>1</sup> Having had the small-pox when a young man, at Barbadoes, Washington felt safe in the presence of that dreaded malady, which caused so much trouble during the war; but he was anxious for Mrs. Washington to be inoculated, as the means of prevention adopted at that time.



Although it is not possible to foresee consequences of human actions, yet it is, nevertheless, a duty we owe ourselves and posterity, in all our public counsels, to decide in the best manner we are able, and to trust the event to that Being, who controls both causes and events, to bring about his own determinations. Impressed with this sentiment, and at the same time fully convinced that our affairs may take a more favorable turn, the Congress have judged it necessary to dissolve all connections between Great Britain and the American Colonies, and to declare them free and independent States, as you will perceive by the enclosed Declaration, which I am directed by Congress to transmit to you, and to request you will have proclaimed at the head of the army, in the way you shall think most proper.

It was to this Declaration that John Hancock was first to affix his signature, saying, "I write so that George the Third may read without his spectacles."<sup>1</sup>

While the patriots of the various towns had, by their votes, encouraged their representatives to declare the

People may disagree as to the inherent and acquired ability of Hancock. There may be varied opinions as to the motives of his declarations, oral and written, and one overt act may be allowed to outweigh scores of creditable ones; but his name is immortal, and to be read upon the Declaration of Independence "without spectacles" by every lover of liberty and by every would-be tyrant. (See *Frontispiece*.)

We may imagine that Hancock took peculiar pride in his communication to General Artemas Ward,<sup>1</sup> under the same date as that to Washington; for it was to the people of Boston and the entire Province of Massachusetts.

PHILADELPHIA, July 6, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed Declaration of Independence, I am directed to transmit to you with a request that you will have it proclaimed at the head of the troops under your command in the way you shall think most proper. I have only time to add, that the importance of it will naturally suggest the Propriety of proclaiming it in such a manner, as that the whole army may be fully appraised of it.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obed. and very h'ble sev't,

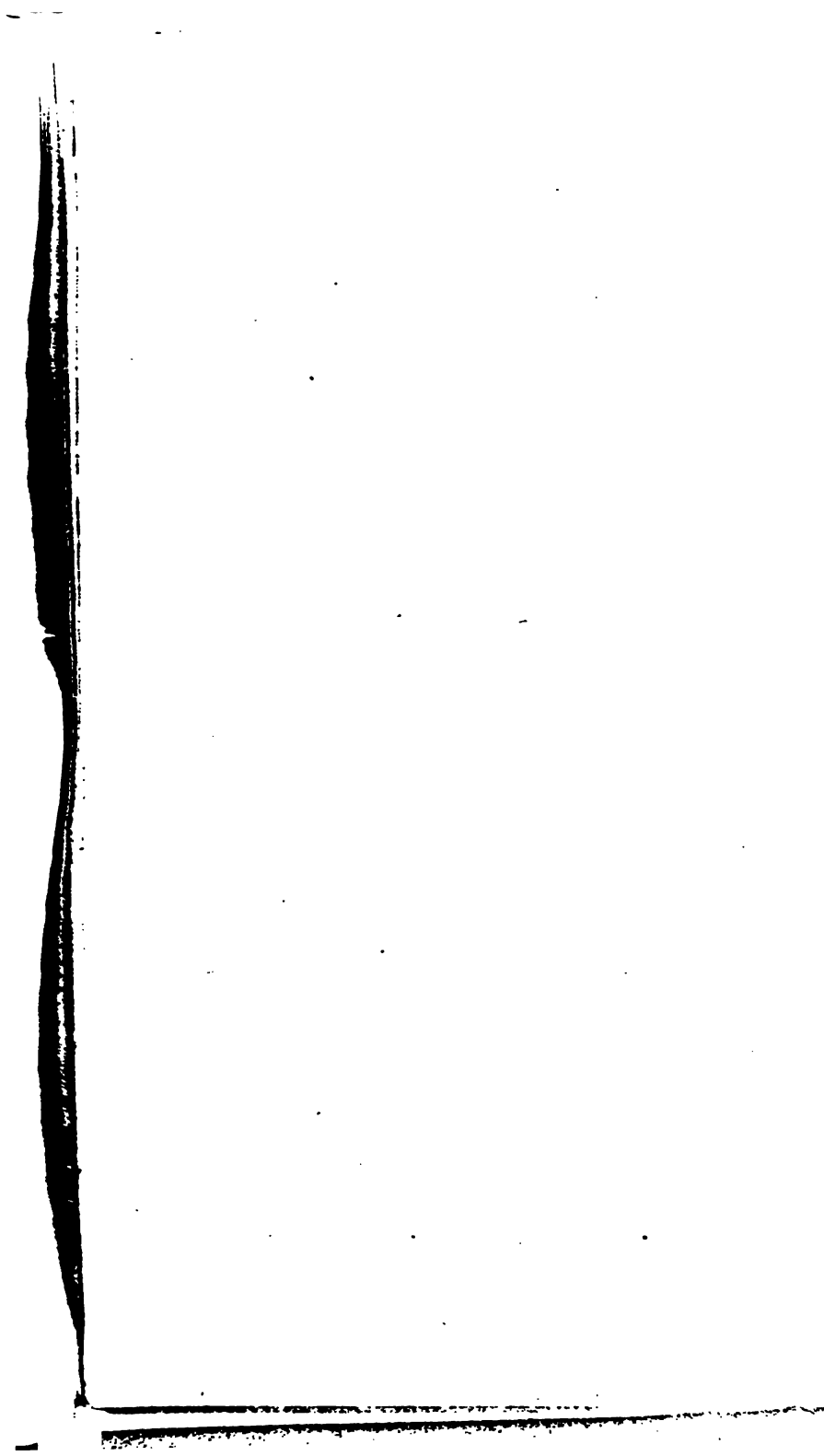
JOHN HANCOCK, Presdt.

In an eloquent appeal to the thirteen United States, dated at Philadelphia, Sept. 24, 1776, Hancock says:—

Let us convince our enemies that, as we are entered into the present contest for the defence of our liberties, so we are resolved, with the firmest reliance on Heaven for the justice of our cause, never to relinquish it, but rather to perish in the ruins of it. If we do but remain firm, — if we are not dismayed at the little shocks of fortune, and are determined, at all hazards, that we will be free, — I am persuaded under the gracious smiles of Providence, assisted by our own most strenuous endeavors, we shall finally succeed, agreea-

<sup>1</sup> Artemas Ward kept a general store at Shrewsbury, purchasing broadcloth, etc., of John Hancock. — OLD TIMES IN SHREWSBURY, by Miss Elizabeth Ward.





es, and thereby establish the independence, the happy glory of the United States of America.

er to several States dated Philadelphia, Oct. Hancock writes:—

ess, for very obvious reasons, are extremely anxious my together. The dangerous consequences of their and the difficulty of forming a new one, are inconceivable. This barrier once removed, military power would quickly tion and ruin over the face of our country. The immediate, indeed, the absolute necessity, of filling up the army, for the troops, and engaging them to serve during the present, and has been so frequently urged, that I shall draw your attention to the resolve of Congress on this subject. I beseech you by that love you have for your country, her liberties, to exert yourselves to carry them Speedily and the only means of preserving her in this her critical situation.

letter at our command was written from  
The occasion of the change of location was

them comfortably located at the home of Mr. Samuel Purviance in Baltimore could he turn his attention to the protection of the infant republic.

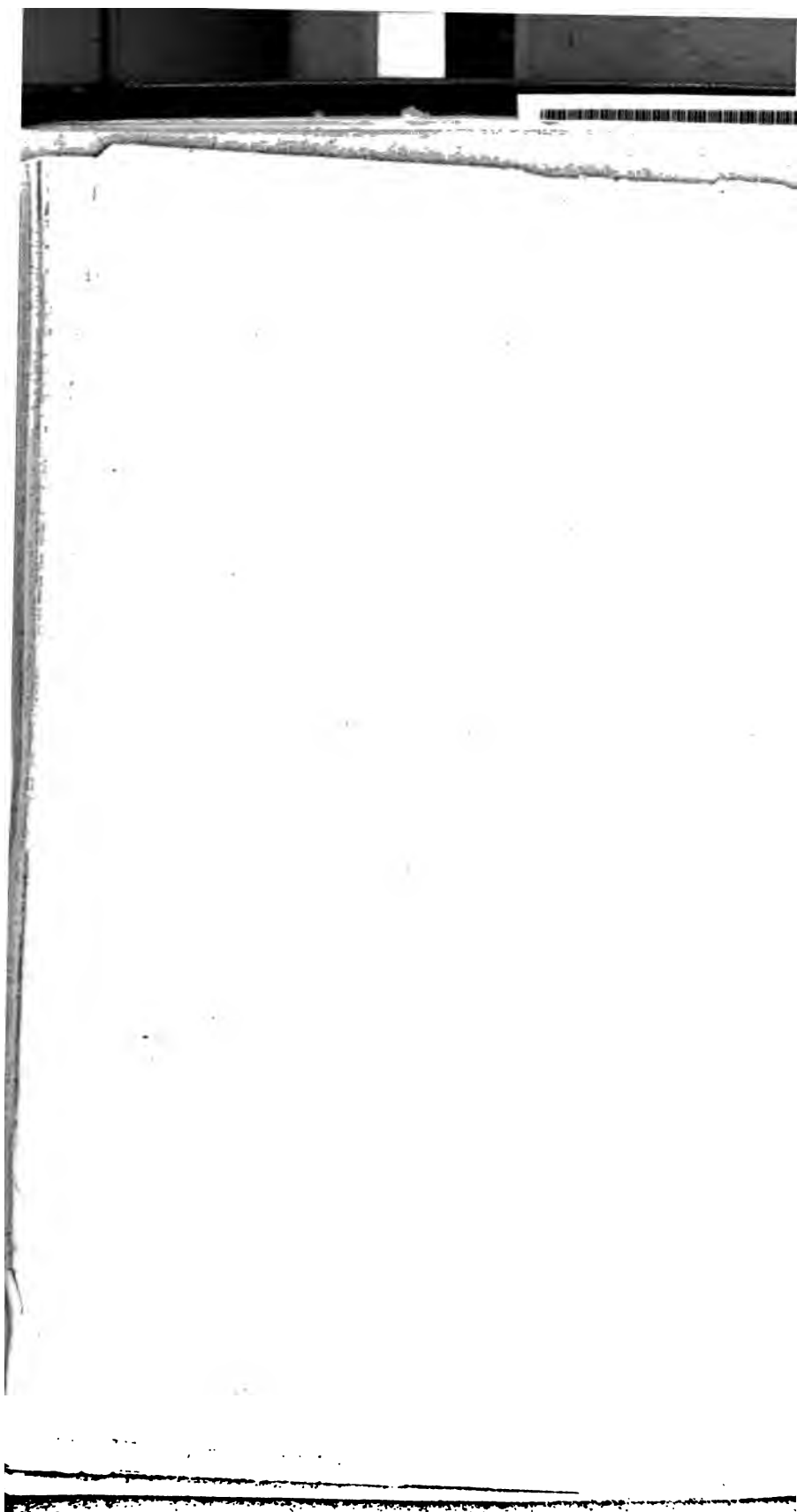
It was on Dec. 25, 1776, that Hancock wrote to New England thus:—

It is needless to use arguments on this occasion, or to paint the dreadful consequences, to gentlemen already fully acquainted with them, of leaving the back settlements of the New England States open to the ravages of our merciless foes. If anything can add to your exertions, at this time, it must be the reflection that your own most immediate safety calls upon you to strain every nerve. Should we heedlessly abandon the post of Ticonderoga, we give up inconceivable advantages. Should we resolutely maintain it,—and it is extremely capable of defence, we may bid defiance to Gen. Carleton, and the northern army under his command. But our exertions for this purpose must be immediate, or they will not avail anything.



PARSONAGE, BURLINGTON.

Adams were welcomed April 19, 1775.





## CHAPTER XX

CONGRESS RETURNS TO PHILADELPHIA. LETTER TO MRS. HANCOCK. HANCOCK RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS. RETURNS TO BOSTON. RECEPTION. ELECTED TO OFFICE. MILITARY SERVICE. RECEPTION TO FRENCH CONSUL. HANCOCK PAYS BILLS FOR BOSTON'S HONOR.

Successful was Washington, the commander-in-chief, elected with unlimited power, and the danger that Philadelphia so far removed, that Congress in the following February. Hancock personally the change of residence with little difficulty; not so easy to remove his family and re-establish home. His heart yearned for his wife and babe,

pauses in his duties to eat a plate of "minc'd veal" brought in by his servant "Jo."

[Letter in possession of Mrs. William Wales.]

PHILADELPHIA 10th *March* 1777.  
10 o'clock evening.

MY DEAR DEAR DOLLY: My Detention at the Ferry & the badness of the Roads prevented my arriving here untill Friday Evening.

I put my things into Mr. Williams' house, and went in pursuit of Lodgings. Neither Mrs. Yard nor Lucy could accommodate me. I then went to Smith's & borrowed Two Blankets & returned to my own house; soon after which, Mrs. Smith sent me up a very handsome supper, with a Table cloth, Knives & forks, plates, salt, a print of Butter, Tea, double refined Sugar, a Bowl of Cream, a Loaf of Bread &c. &c. & here I have remain'd & shall do so waiting your arrival. Indeed Mrs. Smith oblig'd me much. I however lead a doleful lonesome life. Tho' on Saturday, I dined at Dr. Shippins'. He desires his Regds. he is as lonesome as I. On Saturday I sat down to Dinner at the little table with Folger on a piece of Roast Beef with Potatoes. We drank your health with all our Baltimore friends. Last night Miss Lucy came to see me, & this morning, while I was at Breakfast on Tea with a pewter tea-spoon, Mrs. Yard came in. she could not stay to Breakfast with me. I spend my evenings at home, snuff my candles with a pair of scissors, which Lucy seeing, sent me a pair of snuffers, & dipping the gravy out of the Dish with my pewter tea spoon, she sent me a large silver spoon, and two silver tea spoons — that I am now quite rich.

I shall make out as well as I can, but I assure you, my Dear Soul, I long to have you here, & I know you will be as expeditious as you can. When I part from you again it must be a very extraordinary occasion. I have sent everywhere to get a gold or silver rattle for the child with a coral to send, but cannot get one. I will have one if possible on yr. coming. I have sent a sash for her & two little papers of pins for you. If you do not want them you can give them away.

However unsettled things may be I could not help sending for you as I cannot live in this way. We have an abundance of lies. The current report is General Howe is bent on coming here, another report is that the Mercht's at New York are packing their goods & putting them on board ships & that the troops are going away, neither of which do I believe. We must, however take our chances,

this you may depend on, that you will be ever the object of my utmost care & attention.

I have been exceedingly busy, since I have been here, tho' have not yet made a Congress, are waiting for the South Carolina gentlemen. If Capt. Hammond is arriv'd with any things from Boston, You will have them put in the waggons & brought here. If she should not be arriv'd leave the Receipt with Mr. S. Purviance & desire him to receive the things & send them to me. The inclosed Letter give to Mr. Newhouse, one of the Waggoners, Send for him & Let him know when You will be ready. I hope you will be able to pack up all your things quickly & have them on the way, & that you will soon follow, be careful in packing & do not leave anything behind. Let Harry see that every thing is safely stored in the waggons. I send Mr. McClosky, he will be very useful. I am confident Mr. & Mrs. Hilligas will assist you, pray my best Regds. to them. I have not had a moments time to go to their house, but intend it today & shall write Mr. Hilligas by the Post. Young Mr. Hilligas got here on Saturday, he is well, he delivered me your letter & one from his father. I was exceeding glad to hear from you & hope soon to receive another Letter. I know you will set off

soon, have the happiness of seeing you with the utmost affection and Love. My Dear Dolly,

I am yours forever JOHN HANCOCK.

Doctor Bond call'd on me, Desir'd his compliments. He will inoculate the child as soon as it comes.

Mrs. Washington got here on Saturday. I went to see her. She told me she Drank tea with you.

Let Harry take the Continental Horse, Saddle & Bridle, that I left at Mr. Purviance's & tell Mr. Purviance to charge his keeping in his public credit. If Capt. Hardy returns the Horse I lent him with the Saddle & Bridle he must also come. Get the heavy waggon off as soon as you can, that they may be here as early as possible, as we shall much want the things after you get here. I have got your bundle safe with the Petticoat, Table Cloth, I have not sent it as I thought you would not want it.

After one hundred and twenty-one years, these two letters, written by John Hancock to his wife on successive days, are brought together. The former, given to Mrs. William Wales by Mrs. Hancock, has never before been published; the latter has been published in the *New England Magazine*.

PHILADELPHIA, 11th March, 1777.

9 o'clock Evening.

MY DEAREST DOLLY: No Congress to-day, and I have been as busily employ'd as you can conceive; quite lonesome & in a domestic scituation that ought to be Relieved as speedily as possible, this Relief depends upon you, and the greater Dispatch you make & the Sooner you arrive here, the more speedy will be my relief. I dispatched Harry, McClosky & Dennis this morning with Horses & a Waggon as winged Messengers to bring you along. God grant you a speedy and safe Journey to me. Mr. Pluckrose the Bearer of this going for Mrs. Morris, I have engaged him to proceed on to Baltimore to deliver you this; I wrote you this morning to bring all the things that came from Boston to this place, but should they be landed before you leave Baltimore, I could wish you would present One Quintal of the Salt Fish, & three or four Loaves of the Sugar to Mr. Sam'l Purviance, or in case they should not be landed, leave directions to have those articles taken out & presented to Mr. P.

with our Compliments. I forget what other things there are, but if you choose to make presents of any of them, I pray you to do it. If in the prosecution of your Journey you can avoid lodging at the head of Elk, I wish you would, it is not so good as the other houses, but this must depend on Circumstances; I wish to make yor journey as agreeable as possible. Should any Gentlemen & Ladies accompany you out of Town do send McClosky forward to order a handsome Dinner and I beg you will pay every Expence, order McClosky to direct the Landlord not to Receive a single farthing from any one but by your Direction, & order a genteel Dinner; plenty —

If Mr. Thomson cannot be Ready with his Waggons as soon as you are, do not wait, but part of the Guard with an Officer must attend yours, & part be left to guard his, I only wish to have you here, and if you cannot readily attend to the Return of the things borrowed of Mr. Dugan, leave them in the Care of some trusty person to deliver them and pay him for his trouble. Am I not to have another letter from you, surely I must. I shall send off Mr. Rush a Tailor to-morrow or next day to meet you. I wish I could do better for you, but we must Ruff it; I am so harassed with applications, & have been sending off Expresses to Call all the Mem-

& return'd to my Cottage; Jo comes in with a plate of minc'd Veal, that I must stop, I shall take the plate in one hand, the knife in the other, without cloath, or any Comfort, & Eat a little & then to writing, for I have not Room on the Table to put a plate, I am up to the eyes in papers. Adieu for the present.

The Inclosed Letter Lucy just sent me for you. — Supper is over, no Relish, nor shall I till I have you here, & I wish Mr. & Mrs. Hilligas to join us at Supper on Tuesday Eveng, when I shall expect you. I shall have Fires made & everything ready for yor Reception, tho' I don't mean to hurry you beyond measure, do as you like, don't fatigue yourself in Travelling too fast. I keep Josh on trial, he promises Reformation, he knows fully his fate. My best Regards to Mr. & Mrs. Purviance, to Mr. Lay & Family, Capt. Nicholson & wife, Mr. Stewart & wife & all Friends. Tell Mr. Purviance & Capt. Nicholson I shall write them fully in a day or two and Determine all matters to their satisfaction, I am so worried that I cannot even steal time to write them now. Tell Mr. Purviance I Rec'd his Letter by Post and will forward the Letters he Inclos'd me to Boston & Newbury to-morrow. Pray let Dr. Wisenhall know that I Rec'd his Letter, & am much obliged for his attention to the Child, & that I will do everything in my power for the Gentleman who he mentions in his Letter, you will Recompense him for Calling to see the Child.

Remember me to all in the Family. If Nancy inclines to come in the Waggon, & you like it she may Come, do as you like in every instance, my love to Miss Katy, tell her if anything is left behind, I shall have at her, for she Ransack'd when we left Philad'a. & she must do the same now —

The Opinion of some seems to be that the Troops will leave New York, where bound none yet know; one thing I know that they can't at present come here, perhaps they are going to Boston, or up North River. Time will discover. Never fear, we shall get the day finally with the smiles of heaven.

Do Take precious Care of our dear little Lydia.

Adieu. I long to see You; Take Care of Yourself; I am,  
my Dear Girl

Yours most affectionately

JOHN HANCOCK.

Do let Harry Buy & bring 1 or 2 Bushells of Parsnips. Bring all the wine, none to be got here.

John Hancock continued in Philadelphia, with an occasional change, through the summer and in the autumn of the year 1777; but all the time he was struggling with the increasing cares of Congress, and fighting against his physical infirmities, aggravated by the unhealthy atmosphere of the locality. But it is evident that Mrs. Hancock visited Massachusetts during the summer, and that Mr. Hancock wrote several letters to her without a reply. One directed "to Mrs. Hancock at Worcester or Boston" was published in the *N. E. Historical Register* in 1858. It is given here with due credit to its source, as it fills a vacancy at this point, and tells of the determination of the President to resign his position.

YORK TOWN, October 18<sup>th</sup> 1777.

MY DEAR DOLLY,

I am now at this Date & not a line from you. Nor a single word

I shall hope & must Desire that you will take a Seat in the carriage & meet me on the Road, which will much advance your health, & you may be assur'd will be highly satisfactory to me, & I have Desired Mr. Bant to accompany you in the carriage & when we meet he can take my sulkey and I return with you in the carriage to town. Mr. Bant must hire or borrow a Servant to attend you on Horseback, as Harry & Ned are both with me, & Joe is not suitable. My dear, I hope your health will admit of your coming with Mr. Bant. I long to see you. I shall close all my Business in three Days & indeed have already nearly finished, & when once I set out shall travel with great speed. Nothing will prevent my seeing you soon, with the leave of providence; but a prevention of passing the North River, I shall push hard to get over, even if I go as far as Albany. I need not tell you there will be no occasion of your writing me after the Receipt of this. My best wishes attend you for every good. I have much to say, which I leave to a Cheerful Evening with you in person.

God Bless you my Dear Dolly

I am

Yours most affectionately

JOHN HANCOCK.

The next letter from Hancock to his wife is treasured by Mrs. William Wales of Dorchester, and reads thus:—

DOVER (WITHIN 60 MILES OF HARTFORD),

*Saturday 1 of Clock,*

8 Nov. 1777.

MY DEAR: I am thus far on my journey to meet you, thank Luck for it. I have gone thro' many Difficulties on the Road, but that I shall not mind. The Remembrance of these Difficulties will vanish when I have the happiness of seeing You. I am still obliged to have my foot wrapp'd up in Baize, but I brave all these things. I hire this person to carry You this letter in Confidence it will meet You at Hartford. I shall get along as fast as I can, but having a party of Light horse with me and a waggon I do not travel so fast as I otherwise should. What if you should on Monday morning set out to meet me, on the Litchfield Road & then if I am not able to reach Hartford that day, I shall have the satisfaction of seeing You on the Road. If you think the ride will be too much I would not have you undertake it, but I hope You will not ride many miles before we shall meet, as I trust Mr. Bant is with You. my Regd's



to him, my best wishes attend him. Remember me to Mrs. Collier, for I suppose you are there. I am sorry I can not take Fairfield in my way, but I crossed so high up it was not possible. I have much to say, but refer all to the happy time when I shall be with you. God bless you — my dear girl, and believe me with sincere affection.

Yours forever,

JOHN HANCOCK.

Mrs. McDagle this moment comes in to the Tavern & is going to dine with us.

For the farewell to Congress see Appendix IV.

It necessarily required some time for Hancock to arrange his affairs so as to start for Boston; but his plans were well executed, and the returning ex-president was gratified by meeting Mrs. Hancock, and having her company through Connecticut and into Boston.

A Hartford journal of Nov. 19 gives us a glimpse of them as they journey:—

ored now, and happy in having a noble wife to share in all the demonstrations of the town. With a consciousness of duty well performed, John Hancock must have gone about the town, halting to express regret, as wanton destruction appeared to view, and again to rejoice that Faneuil Hall, the State House, and South Meeting House were left in as good condition as they were. When the long-absent ones gathered once more in the family pew in Brattle-street Church, prayers of thanksgiving went up from many hearts. It was this house which received the bell, a gift from Hancock, that, arriving after the blockade, was brought to Boston by way of Salem. The name of John Hancock, chiselled on a corner-stone of this new meeting-house, had been removed by the angry hands of Gage's soldiers as an expression of contempt for the merchant who had turned against the king. The impression in the front wall, made from a cannon-ball from the Patriot army, was none the less a reminder of the situation than if it had been a scar made by the enemy, as were many that left traces of the occupancy of this new and costly house by the British army.

It was but a few days after the return of John Hancock to Boston that a town-meeting was held, Dec. 8, 1777; and the record of the day says:—

The inhabitants having brought in their votes, for a Moderator: upon sorting them it appeared that the Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Hancock, Esq., was unanimously chosen Moderator of this meeting.

It was voted at this meeting that the thanks of the town be extended to Hancock for the donation of one hundred and fifty cords of wood to the poor of the town in the time of distress. Seven days later, at another

On Jan. 29, with Hancock in the  
discussion on Articles of Confederation  
union between the United States of  
formed and proposed by the Continenta

On March 5, at the meeting for the  
massacre oration, Hancock was in the c  
imagine that his heart burned within him  
in Faneuil Hall, walked to Old Brick M  
and there listened to his successor, Jo  
Austin, in the delivery of that annual  
must have derived satisfaction from the  
confidence of his townsmen, when he to  
preside at the annual election of office  
But at an adjourned meeting on the fo  
was absent because of a more importa  
House of Representatives. On the 27th  
again on duty, and no time seems to  
when he could attend to his private bu

On May 27 the voters assembled for  
seven men to represent the town in the  
Of the seven John Hancock received th  
being three hundred and thirty-five.

Hancock is now missed for a few w  
town-meetings. It might reasonably be  
his power of endurance had become exh  
following letter explains the cause : —

this is my Seventh Letter, & not one word have I heard from you since your departure from Boston. I am as well as the peculiar scituation of this place will admit, but I can by no means in Justice to myself continue long under such disagreeable Circumstances, I mean in point of Living, the mode is so very different from what I have been always accustom'd to, that to continue it long would prejudice my health exceedingly. This moment the Post arriv'd, and to my very great Surprise & Disappointment not a single line from Boston; I am not much dispos'd to Resent, but it feels exceedingly hard to be slighted and neglect'd by those from whom I have a degree of Right to expect different Conduct; I would have hir'd any one to have sent a few Lines just to let me know the State of your health, but I must Endeavor not to be so Anxious & be as easy as some others seem to be. I will expect no letters nor write any, & then there will be no Disappointment; So much for that. To be serious, I shall write no more till I hear from you, this is agreeable to my former promise. It really is not kind, when you must be sensible that I must have been very anxious about you & the little one. Devote a little time to write me, it will please me much to hear of you, I am sure you are dispos'd to oblige me, & I pray I may not be disappointed in my opinion of your Disposition.

I hope this will meet you tolerably Recover'd from your late Confinement, I wish to hear of your being below Stairs & able to take the care of our Dear little one. I am much concern'd about your improving the fine Season in Riding. I am sorry I did not take hir'd horses & leave you mine, but I beg you spare no Cost in Riding for the Establishment and Continuance of your health, hire horses whenever you are dispos'd to Ride, be as frugal & prudent in other matters as is consistent with our Scituation; I wish to know every Occurrence since my departure, pray be particular as to your health in your Letters & give me an exact state of little John. Does Mrs. Brackett intend continuing with you? I beg she may at least until my Return. My love to her, pray her to take great care of the little fellow. As soon as the City of Philada is cleansed, I judge Congress will remove thither, & as soon as we have got over the important Business now before Congress I shall solicit leave to Return home, as it will not be necessary for so many of our Members to be here, but of this more hereafter.

As I have wrote so many Letters & see no Returns, & as I am called to attend Congress, I must Refer you to Mr. Taylor for every particular relative to our Scituation.

s to Mr. & Mrs. Bant, my Brother & Sister, & indeed  
as if nam'd. Remember me to Sprigs and Harry, &  
nily.

I have frequent Letters, you will oblige me much. My  
ever attend you for the highest Felicity, & I am with  
affection and Love.

Yours for ever,

JOHN HANCOCK. •

etter it appears that a little stranger had been  
to the Hancock mansion during these busy  
When the seal of baptism was placed upon  
row, his name was declared to be — John  
ashington.

. 6 Hancock was back in Boston, and mode-  
e meeting when action was taken in regard to  
of the Loyalists.

timent expressed by the voters was decidedly  
and John Hancock was made chairman of a

unfortunate circumstance, and would have dampened the ardor of "our French allies."

At this time efforts were being made in the town to have people curtail in the supplies for their table, because of the scarcity of food and poverty surrounding them, and it was unreasonable to suppose that the town could honor herself in entertaining these guests; but Hancock entertained about forty officers of the fleet at his home each day. One morning an unexpected company arrived at the mansion to partake of the Colonel's viands, when, in the language of Madam Hancock, "the Common was bedizened with lace." The cooks were driven to despair; and the exigency was only met by sending the servants to milk the cows on the Common, regardless of their owners.

The following letter was doubtless written to Mr. Purviance at Baltimore at the time of the reception in honor of the officers of the French fleet:—

[From "Family Memorials," by Edward E. Salisbury.]

MONDAY NOON, 30 Aug<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

DEAR SIR: The Philistines are coming upon me on Wednesday next at Dinner. To be Serious, the Ambassador &c., &c., &c., are to Dine with me on Wednesday, and I have nothing to give them, nor from the present prospect of our Market do I see that I shall be able to get any thing in Town; I must beg the favr of you to Recommend to my Man Harry where he can get some Chickens. Ducks, Geese, Hams, Partridges, Mutton, or any thing that will save my Reputation in a Dinner, and by all means some Butter; Be so good as to help me, and you will much oblige me; is there any good Mellons or Peaches, or any good fruit, near you? Your advice to Harry will much oblige me; Excuse me. I am very troublesome; Can I get a good Turkey; I walk<sup>d</sup> in Town to-day; I dine on board the French Frigate to-morrow; so you see how I have Recovered.

God bless you; if you see any thing good at Providence, do Buy it for me. I am Your Real friend JOHN HANCOCK.

quet given in Faneuil Hall to about five hundred French allies was to the credit of Boston, whose expense was borne by John Hancock.

On the following day, the 29th, there was another town-meeting, and it is not strange that Hancock was reported as not attending.

## CHAPTER XXI

AGAIN IN GENERAL COURT. SEVERE ON THE LOYALISTS. IN CONVENTION TO FORM THE STATE CONSTITUTION. ELECTED THE FIRST GOVERNOR UNDER THE CONSTITUTION. REV. DR. SAMUEL COOPER PREACHED THE FIRST ELECTION SERMON. CALLS FOR FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION FROM GOVERNMENT. HANCOCK RESUMES BUSINESS. LETTERS TO LONDON. ORDERS FOR FAMILY SUPPLIES.

IN the weeks and months that followed, John Hancock was active in the General Court, and frequently appeared in the chair at town-meeting. Being in the two positions, he knew what the people expected of him, and could exert his influence in carrying out their requests.

He was much engaged in considering applications of absentees to be allowed to return to the town and Commonwealth.

While there is fresh in our mind the general forgiveness exercised towards the offenders in other wars, it is hard to understand the acts of the successful party of the Revolution.

They record themselves as follows:—

*Resolved*—that the Inhabitants of this Town will exert themselves to the utmost in supporting the Civil Magistrate in the execution of this Law, that those professed Enemies to our Rights and Liberties, the first fomenters of our present Troubles, who have left this Country and aided the British Tyrant in his worse than savage measures, to deprive Americans of every thing that ought to be held dear and sacred by any People, may not return and enjoy in common, the fruits of what our immortal Patriots, have toil'd and bled to procure us, and in some future time to be again the base and



ments of British Seducers, in involving a happy Peo-  
on and bloodshed, in order to realize the reward, and  
ntages held out to such Traitors by the enemies of

Hancock was elected a member of the con-  
t framed the Constitution, and upon its adop-  
ected governor. He took the oath of office  
State House; and then the General Court  
e Old Brick Meeting House, and listened to  
ion Sermon." It was fitting that it should  
d by the governor's pastor, Rev. Dr. Samuel

t continued by annual re-elections until 1785,  
n interim of two years was re-elected, serving  
till his death, Oct. 8, 1793.

a period replete with material for the biogra-  
time when Hancock devoted himself largely  
business. (For Inaugural see Appendix V.)

We now return to the Letter-book, from which we have wandered to gather up some of the missing links with which to make a connection, and make clear a letter of 1783. In this is seen an attempt at a renewal of friendship silent for nearly ten years. In the midst of his public cares his infirmities have increased, until, at times, life is a burden. We see that Gage's soldiers did not spare his business-house, although they did not destroy his dwelling. It is apparent by this letter that he had already learned the truth of Swift's utterance, "Censure is the tax a man pays to the public for being eminent." The letter affords an intimation of the severing of family ties by the departure of that class of people derisively called Tories. William Bowes, Hancock's cousin and trusted friend, left the country in debt to his faithful friend and creditor; but friendship did not incline the merchant to forgiveness.

Mr. Hoskins, to whom the reader is introduced, was a business-man of Boston, employed to adjust the many

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. M. Hoskins". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "J" and "M". The name "Hoskins" is written in a slightly larger and more decorative hand than the first initials.

accounts brought suddenly to a close at the opening of the war. He was a Mason in St. Andrews, and also the Grand Lodge; and as secretary of that sent out the notices for the funeral of General Warren (says Eleanor Hoskins Waitt, a lineal descendant).

Hancock proudly announces to his friend Scott that he has a little boy. But while we read his cheerful words, we can but glance forward to the winter of 1787,

... fond hope was blasted by the sudden death  
... y, caused by an accident while skating.

BOSTON, Nov. 14, 1783.

COTT: I have been favored with your letter accompanied  
... mper of Porter & Two cheeses, for which I thank you  
... . They were excellent. I should have much sooner  
... and not ill health & my public associations prevented, but,  
... I am now much recruited. I am rebuilding my store  
... ock which the Brittons burned to ashes when they were  
... on of Boston. I shall compleat it early in the spring  
... ose to enter the Commercial Line upon the same plan  
... pursued.

... or ten years past devoted myself to the concern of the  
... ave not the vanity to think that I have been of very ex-  
... ice in our late unhappy contest, but one thing I can  
... I sat out upon honest Principles & strictly adhered to  
... close of the contest, and this I defy malice itself to con-  
... have lost many thousand sterlg, but, thank God, my  
... aved and by the smile of Heaven I am a free & Inde-  
... n, and now my friend I can pleasantly congratulate you  
... rn of Peace which gives a countenance to retire from

the River & you to take the Command of her. I had rather you would take a concern in her. I mean this vessel to bring out my goods in the spring & to be kept running, if this is agreeable to you. I wish you would be upon the lookout till Hoskins arrives and you may pass upon one if you see it. I would not have one above 130 or 140 tons. I however leave it to you. I am at a loss who Hoskins should apply to in London. I have a great respect for Mr. Harrison, tho' we differ in Principles. Does he carry on Business? I have no favors to ask, but I confess I should like you should drop a hint to him on the subject. If any vessel should be sailing for this place after you receive this, do give me your opinion.

I shall get Mr. Hoskins away as speedily as possible. & the inclosed Letter to Mrs. Haley, I request you will be kind enough to deliver with your own hand, with my best Requests to wait till she reads it. Having heard that she proposes a visit to America in the Spring I have in my Letter, Solicited her acceptance of apartments in my house, during her pleasure. You can inform her of my Situation; perhaps it is nearly as pleasant as any in town. Do urge her acceptance, she shall be as unceremonious as she pleases, you know me. I have Carriages & Servants at her service, in my power. Perhaps if you should succeed in a vessel she might approve of the opportunity of taking passage with you. I have mentioned to Mrs. Haley that I have requested you to ask her opinion & advice as to a few things I have wrote you for family use, & enclosed you have a memo., which after taking every necessary advice, I could wish you would put in hand; do consult Mrs. Scott & Mr. William Foster as to the Post Chariot. I have not time to write Mr. Eliot, but will by Mr. Hoskins, as I am now busily employed in settling up my public concerns. I am determined in the course of this month to resign my command of this Commonwealth & return to private life, after the many fatigues I have gone thro'. Do ask Mr. Samuel Eliot if he does not really approve my Determination, as I leave the Government under the public Conviction that a much better man be my successor & I am really worn out with public business.

I shall defer what I have farther to say until Mr. Hoskins' departure, by him I shall send money or Bills; give me the earliest notice of your intentions, whether you consent to go into the old line or not, because my plans will be materially effected. Write me by various opportunities. I shall make Mr. Harrison the offer of my Business. It is at his pleasure to accept or reject. My pay will be acceptable to others if not to him. I do not mean to court, but

ship for him, & if it is agreeable to him it will be to

to close my acct. once a year & when I cannot do  
t. I wish to lay aside all diversity of sentiment for  
circumstance, neither in my public Line nor private  
occasioned a Breach of friendship.

you, my good friend, my regard to your worthy family,

Hancock joins me. I have a fine little boy, pray  
me of that ungrateful, ungentlemanly base fellow of a  
s? There is no Balm in Gilead for him. I would not  
ny one else, & I pray God however to forgive him. I  
ll in the other world. I shall have my Recompense  
ob'd me of, out of what he left here. I am

Your real friend

J. H.

closed letter to Mrs. Haley it is learned that  
ey, Hancock's agent at the opening of the  
ed, and his widow has forwarded the unset-

*November 14, 1783.*

Y HALEY —

pleasant season. I do assure you — Madam, I shall be happy to receive you here, and give me leave, with the utmost sincerity to request that you will be so obliging, as upon your arrival here, to permit me to conduct you to my Home, where you may rely you shall meet from Mrs. Hancock & myself an unceremonious and cheerful reception, and where your abode, during your pleasure shall be made as agreeable as any in Town, of which Capt. Scott or any gentleman from this way can inform you, and I kindly hope you will gratify me in my Request, at least until you meet with a more agreeably accommodated situation. I inclose this to Capt. Scott, whom I have requested to deliver it to you. I have wrote to Scott upon the subject of purchasing a vessel for me, and he to take the command, as I propose again, engaging in Business & wish to have Scott in a running vessel & perhaps if Scott succeeds that opportunity might not be unfavorable to your wishes as to a passage, he is really an excellent Ship master & a gentleman I have a great regard for. I have taken the freedom to ask Scott to apply to you for your opinion & advice in a few articles I want for my family use. I know your goodness will pardon the Liberty.

It will afford me at all times much pleasure to have it in my power to render you or your Connections any Service, and I beg you will believe me with Sentiments of Real Regard & Esteem —

Dear Madam

Your much obed't. & humble serv't.

J. H.

*It will afford me at all times  
much pleasure to have it in my power to render  
you or your connections any Service; and I beg  
you will believe me with Sentiments of Real  
Regard & Esteem,*

*6 Dear Madam,  
Your much obed't. & humble serv't  
J. H.*

*To Mrs. Mary Haley - London*

TO CAPT. JAMES SCOTT:—

Memo. of Sundry articles that Mr. Hancock is in want of for his own use of service & which he wishes Capt. Scott would put in hand after advising with Mrs. Haley and Mrs. Harrison & Mrs. Sam'l Eliot. In case Mr. Hoskins should not be arrived timely for

prepared so as Mr. Hancock may receive them in  
very neat & light Post Chaise or Chariot. Elegantly  
expensive by external Tawdry ornaments. The  
to unship and ship, with a Pole & fills, so as occa-  
the servants on the seat, or to ride Postilion; the  
the carriage to draw out, a good Lock & key to it, a  
side of the carriage. A handsome travelling trunk,  
fit, with Leather straps to fasten it, a strong Lock  
Lined with Crimson Velvet, if not thought too heavy.  
Hancock submits to better taste than his own in Mrs.  
hers. Capt. Scott will find Inclosed Mr. Hancock's  
would have neatly Introduced on the carriage, with  
the other part of the carriage & the motto subjoined.  
ent work of the carriage to be stone yellow, that being  
his carriages bear. In short Mr. Hancock wants to  
a very neat little carriage. } Elegant not fine. A set  
es, a set of spare springs. Blinds set with glass. A  
ter, if Mr. Ellis is living, I beg he may make them.  
est Pewter Plates, with their proportion of proper  
ng dishes for Saturday's Salt Fish. You know how it  
y crest to be engraved in each Dish and Plate. Mr.

## CHAPTER XXII

HANCOCK MANSION AND GARDENS. NOTED GUESTS ENTERTAINED. HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES. MRS. JOHN HANCOCK'S APPAREL. HANCOCK COACH. GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK PAYS THE DEBT TO NATURE. FUNERAL OF THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS. MRS. DOROTHY HANCOCK MARRIES CAPT. JAMES SCOTT. MADAME DOROTHY SCOTT AND GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

THE supplies ordered from England, in connection with the concluding letter to Capt. Scott, naturally call the reader's attention to the Hancock mansion; and without pausing to lament because of its destruction, we content ourselves with what others have written of the house and contents. (Appendix VI.)

The building was of stone, built in the substantial manner favored by the wealthier Bostonians. The walls were massive; a balcony projected over the entrance-door, upon which opened a large window of the second story. The corners and window openings were ornamented with Braintree stone, and the tiled roof was surmounted by a balustrade. Dormer windows jutted out from the roof, from which might be obtained a beautiful and extensive view. A low stone wall, on which was placed a light wooden fence, enclosed the grounds. The gate-posts were also of stone. A paved walk and a dozen stone steps conducted to the mansion, situated on rising ground at a little distance back from the street. Before the door was a wide stone slab, worn by the feet



inghished owner and his illustrious guests. The hall, sixty feet in length, designed for festive occasions, was joined to the northern wing. At the main entrance to the governor's mansion was the parlor, with furniture of bird's-eye maple covered with rich damask. Out of this opened the dining-room, in which Hancock gave the famous dinner to Admiral D'Estaing and his officers. Opposite was a smaller apartment, the usual dining-room of the day. Next adjoining was the china-room and the coach-house and barn behind. At the left end was a second saloon, or family drawing-room, the walls covered with crimson paper. The upper walls were hung with pictures of game, hunt-scenes, and other subjects. Most of the furniture, tapestries, and draperies were imported from England by Hancock. Passing through the hall, a flight

she had selected for the place.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. John Hancock proved herself well fitted for the position, and through her native grace and dignity performed well her part at the reception of D'Estaing, Lafayette, Washington, Brissot, Lords Stanley and Wortley, and other noted guests.

We have seen by the Letter-book that John Hancock enjoyed good table furnishings; he took peculiar pride in the gift of a table-cloth and napkins, "the most genteel in the country." The six dozen pewter plates bearing the family crest were much to his liking; and it was the duty of his household to see that this pewter was kept at the highest point of brightness, and used every day, to the exclusion of the valuable India china-set also owned by him. He preferred to use the pewter, because as he said, "the contents of the plates were not so apt to slide off," and the use of them caused no clatter in contact with knives and forks. He had a large quantity of silver, much of which bore the tower stamp of England. He had four dozen silver forks, matched with

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Lydia Hancock left her home during the siege, and never returned to enjoy it. The following embodies the facts, read on a tombstone in the old burying-ground at Fairfield, Conn.:—

THIS STONE ERECTED  
BY THADDEUS BURR AND EUNICE BURR  
TO THE MEMORY OF THEIR DEAR FRIEND  
MRS. LYDIA HANCOCK,

RELICT OF THE HON<sup>BLE</sup> THOS. HANCOCK, ESQ.  
OF BOSTON,

whose Remains lie here interred, having retired to this town from the calamities of war, during the Blockade of her native city in 1775. Just on her return to the reenjoyment of an ample fortune.

ON APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> A. D. 1776

She was seized with apoplexy and closed a life of unaffected piety, universal benevolence and extensive charity.

number of silver spoons, also several tankards of various sizes; one, holding a gallon or more, he devoted exclusively to hot punch. This tankard he presented to Townsend, in honor of a friend. He had a large silver porter-cup, holding two quarts or more, with two massive handles, intended probably to be used from guest to guest, that each might quaff in the same cup. Much of the silver and china were decorated with the Hancock coat-of-arms. His pearl whist counters were also similarly engraved. He had the best furnished dining-table of these times, which did not surpass Hancock's when glistening with silver plates, silver chafing-dishes, four silver butter-knives, silver tongs, and six heavy silver candlesticks, silver plates and tray to match. Silver finger-bowls and spoons of the same material were at command. The silver was in keeping with the table-ware; and to the

a dress from the piece of crimson velvet of which his coat and vest were made, it being too heavy for her slight figure. His white silk embroidered waistcoat contrasted well with the scarlet garment, while the silk stockings and handkerchiefs from London added to the immaculate dress of the merchant-prince.



SCARLET VELVET COAT AND  
EMBROIDERED WAISTCOAT.

(Seen in Old State House.)

Mrs. Hancock's wedding-fan from Paris was of white kid, painted with appropriate designs; but it did not create the envy of the Boston belles, for its first appearance was in the Connecticut home where the nuptials were celebrated. We may well imagine that Boston afforded nothing rich enough for the babes, Lydia and John, when they made their advent to the family. The christening-

robe from England was of embroidered India muslin, with stomacher and trimmings of thread lace. Mrs. Hancock sent at the same time for a hat of lavender-colored silk, trimmed with flowers, and a mantilla of muslin lined with silk to match the hat. She gave six dollars a yard for a piece of muslin in India before it was cut from the loom. Fragments of these fabrics, with the tailor's scraps of the scarlet coat, are still treasured by Mrs. William Wales, a grandniece of Mrs. Hancock.

Viewed from the present standpoint of society, the Hancocks would not be alone in their elegant apparel; and the fine dinners of the house, whether of venison

erved on pewter or silver, were but a little  
of modern Boston.

chaise, or chariot, with its appointments so  
dered from London, which caused the many  
rolled through the narrow streets of Boston  
re than matched by many carriages that roll  
the very ground where Hancock reigned su-  
this republic had its birth. All this splen-  
dour could not disguise the fact that John  
as a debtor to nature; in fact, it hastened  
ent of the account, which occurred on Oct.

[From "Lives of American Merchants."]

Among others, we owe our independence, our liberty,  
and our national greatness, and the high rank we  
occupy among the nations of the earth. We are indebted to him for  
the success of our Revolutionary struggle was derived from the

ORDER OF PROCESSION  
FOR THE  
Funeral of the late Governor Hancock.

FUNERAL ESCORT  
Under the Command of Brigadier-General Hull.

OFFICERS OF THE MILITIA with side arms.  
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.  
JUDGES OF PROBATE.  
JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TREASURER.  
JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT.  
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.  
SHERIFF OF SUFFOLK WITH HIS WAND.  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.  
*Quartermaster.* HIS HONOR  
*Adjutant-General.* THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR. *Secretary.*

<i>Aid-de-camp to the deceased.</i>	The pall supported by	CORPSE	six of the oldest Counsellors.	<i>Aid-de-camp to the deceased.</i>
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## RELATIONS

VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.  
JUDGES AND SECRETARIES OF THE UNITED STATES.  
GENTLEMEN HERETOFORE COUNSELLORS AND SENATORS OF  
MASSACHUSETTS.  
FOREIGN MINISTERS AND CONSULS.  
THE PRESIDENT AND CORPORATION.  
THE PROFESSORS AND OTHER INSTRUCTORS OF  
HARVARD COLLEGE.  
SELECTMEN AND TOWN CLERK.  
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND TOWN TREASURER.  
MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.  
MEMBERS OF THE ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE  
ARTILLERY COMPANY.  
COMMITTEE OF BRATTLE STREET CHURCH OF WHICH  
THE DECEASED WAS A MEMBER.  
OTHER CITIZENS AND STRANGERS.

ORDER OF MARCH.

Procession will move from the Mansion House of the late Hancock, across the Common and down Frog Lane to the State House, through the Main Street, and round the State House, and from thence to the place of interment. The Mayor will superintend the forming of the Procession of which precede the Corpse, and Colonel Waters that of the who follow.

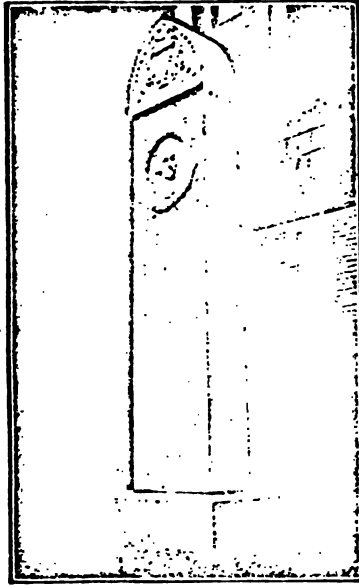
It is desired that the Procession may move four abreast when

1793.

It is desired that the honor displayed by this pageant at the funeral charges were paid from the estate of the deceased.

On the 3, 1894, the Legislature of Massachusetts passed the following:—

That there be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars,



HANCOCK MONUMENT IN GRANARY BURYING GROUND.  
(Erected by the State of Massachusetts to her first Governor.)

This monument will be one of those spots to which the feet of pilgrims will be directed. It will be one of the memories which those who visit us from other States or other countries will bear away with them from historic Boston and historic Massachusetts, and as the hurrying crowd passes by the sidewalk, I hope that it will speak eloquently for all years to come of patriotic and loyal service to the Commonwealth. — GOVERNOR WOLCOTT.

In accepting the monument in behalf of the Commonwealth, the Governor further said :

“ As we look back upon that period of revolution, to the events that led up to it, there is one figure, among others, that stands with peculiar significance to the public mind. That figure is John Hancock. A man of dignity of presence, fond of elaborate ceremonial.



... attire, courtly in his manner, a man of education and  
... for that time, and a man who threw himself heart and  
... patriotic duties of the hour. I think we especially  
... name and memory with three acts. In the first place,  
... that in the proclamation of amnesty there were two  
... ted; one was that of John Hancock, the other that of  
... ms. We remember that when Paul Revere rode out  
... sex County to warn the farmers of the approach of  
... s, John Hancock and Samuel Adams were slumbering  
... e little village of Lexington, and that their capture was  
... important to the British cause as the capture or de-  
... he ammunition which they were sent out to seize.  
... cially remember John Hancock again as President of  
... tal Congress, and as the first to sign, in his bold, fine  
... s name to that immortal declaration, in which those  
... it pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred  
... cause of liberty.

... as through the Letter-book that the reader  
... uced to the sailing-master James Scott, he

not rob her of her native dignity. Says Mrs. William Wales, "I often ran into Aunt Dorothy's from school at noon intermission, when the extra plate was at my service, and the venerable woman ready to greet me with a smile."



MADAM SCOTT. (Mrs. John Hancock.)

In her advanced years Madam Scott received a call from Lafayette when in this country. Those who witnessed the hearty interview spoke of it with admiration. The once youthful chevalier and the unrivalled belle met as if only a summer had passed since they had enjoyed so-

cial interviews during the perils of the Revolution.

An incident confusing to the genealogist is found in the Scott family register. Betsey, daughter of James Scott and Mary Richardson, marries John Hancock, nephew of the patriot, son of Ebenezer and Elizabeth Lowell.

## CHAPTER XXIII

## FINANCIAL RETROSPECT

a century and a half had passed since the  
of Plymouth, but there was not a bank in the  
l trade was little removed from its primitive  
er in the rural districts ; and at the seaport  
ere was a great scarcity of money.

n after generation had come upon the stage,  
very much as that which had preceded it.  
busy brains and willing hands, forests of  
ber, boundless stretches of fertile soil, seas

Harrison for drawing on them at the time of making his shipments. In order to be able to pay for goods on this side, which he had purchased and was about to ship, he was frequently compelled to draw immediately, thus giving his London agent little or no time to dispose of the goods before he was called upon for the money.

To-day this difficulty might be obviated by drawing time drafts, payable two or three months hence, which would be discounted at some bank, and when nearly due forwarded for collection.

As many of the battles of the Revolutionary period were financial rather than sanguinary, the financier of the present can but realize that he was represented in that complex chapter of our American history. There was no safe deposit vault in Provincial Boston; hence Hancock, Bromfield, Rotch, and their associates, in scarlet cloaks, bag-wigs, and cocked hats, were obliged to deposit their guineas in the wrought-iron chest with massive hinge and clumsy lock. As the old-time merchants paced up and down King Street, or gathered in Hancock's counting-room to discuss the prospect of the market, their inseparable pocket companions were the gold snuff-box and the key to the iron locker.

The Hancock repository was sufficient for all demands until D'Estaing arrived with the sacks of coin from France to relieve our distressed country, when the only safe place for King Louis's "crowns" was the home of the deputy paymaster, Ebenezer Hancock, with a guard of soldiers surrounding it.

These richly attired merchants were the bankers of the time, and to them and their strongholds men of less "consequence" resorted for financial accommodation. In December, 1767, Oliver Wendell comes to John Han-

purchases goods for his family by giving in his personal note for one year. Then comes Warren with her pension certificate, which Hancock takes, and in exchange for it passes out from his iron locker. He then forwards the note to London by his next ship for collection. Money was lent to the Province treasury for periods from one to three years, Hancock acting as fiscal agent for his foreign correspondents in negotiating loans. There were investments in mortgages on the continent. In this business also Hancock was helpful. The system of credits, which we are now regard as a modern institution, we find to have been fully developed. Thus John Hancock kept an account with the house of Barnards & Harcourt in London. When goods were shipped abroad, he sent a letter of advice accompanying the consign-

trator, or under power of attorney, sold the property, and purchased bills of exchange on London, which were then forwarded. General Gage's exchequer bills were used for this purpose.)

Hancock bought exchange, that is, cashed or gave credit for drafts on London to those who fortunately had funds in England.

The young officers of the king's army were frequent callers on John Hancock, who accommodated them when they were in need of funds from home. As the English visitor of to-day steps into the office of Messrs. Brown Brothers, or Kidder, Peabody, and Co., with his letter of credit, or draft on England, so his predecessor called at Hancock's in Provincial days.

✕ John Hancock and other far-seeing merchants of the time detected the impending ruin of the country when the Stamp Act was passed. It was aimed directly at commerce, in which lay the key to the situation; and it was to them and their correspondents in London that more credit was due for the repeal of that Act than was due to those who made the recorded speeches.

This required the most positive decision, which the letters show Hancock to have exercised; and in the quiet of his counting-room he penned his most fervent appeals to the merchants abroad to use their influence upon Parliament. His actions were those of one who believed, "The pen is mightier than the sword." While he often resorted to strong language, he never lost all hope in the power of appeal until hostilities were actually begun; and then he was ready to resort to arms. ✕ He would have made his way from the parsonage to Lexington Common, on the morning of April 19, 1775, and shown his ability to handle the firelock, had he not

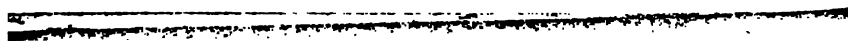
nted by his associates, who believed he had  
portant mission.

ning of the war closed the books of these

Hancock had many running accounts with  
rchants, but they could not be settled until  
restored; and it was nearly ten years before  
ndertook to adjust his accounts. Then he  
dened with public service that he employed  
oskins to act for him, both in this country

ad been great changes during the period of  
d he was honest in his statement that he had  
nds of pounds sterling; but he did not regret  
as his country had been saved from a tyrant's

going are some of the obscure facts revealed  
ter-book, which, viewed with an unprejudiced  
onvince the reader that the patriot merchants





## APPENDIX I

---

Following history of the Longman Publishing House  
ed from London after the body of this volume  
d through the press.

LONGMAN, the founder of the firm, was born in Bristol  
On the ninth day of June, 1716, eight years after the  
s father, Ezekiel Longman, Thomas Longman was ap-  
r the term of seven years to John Osborn, stationer and  
"At the Oxford Arms," Lombard Street, London.

of Osborn is known to have been highly respected and  
though but little other information is obtainable. One  
liest books, it may be well noted, was a volume of  
*and Hymns and Spiritual Songs of the Old and New*

1725 the firms of Osborn and Longman were united; and in 1726 they as partners published their first book, the first edition of *Sherlock's Voyages*. This was soon followed by many works of educational and scientific interest. The death of the Osborns, father and son, soon followed. In 1754 Thomas Longman took into partnership his namesake, Thomas, the son of his brother Henry; and for many years afterward the imprint was "Printed for T. & T. Longman." Thomas Longman (1st) died June 18, 1755.

THOMAS LONGMAN (2d) was twenty-four years of age when he became a partner of his uncle, and for forty-three years he carried on the business. Under his management many valuable copyrights were secured, and the business increased until it included important connections with the Colonies and America.

Thomas Longman (2d) had three sons, one of whom, T. Norton Longman, born in 1771, became in 1792 partner with his father. In 1792 Mr. Thomas Brown, whose father had been for some years in the house, was admitted to partnership, and Mr. Owen Rees entered the firm, in which for forty years he continued in active interest. Thomas Longman (2d) died in 1797. The years from 1797 to the death of Thomas Norton Longman, in 1842, saw the publication by the house of Lindley Murray's *Grammar*, Wordsworth's, Southey's, Coleridge's, and Moore's poems, the reconstructed Chambers's *Cyclopaedia*, called Rees's *New Cyclopaedia*, for many years the standard, and of several of the *Waverley Novels*. Partners at this time were Messrs. Orme, Hurst, and later B. E. Green. In 1839 Mr. Thomas Longman (b. 1804) and Mr. William Longman (b. 1813), sons of Thomas Norton Longman, entered the firm, and directed the business until the death of the latter in 1877 and of the former in 1879. It was during Mr. Thomas Longman's management that Macaulay's works were published.

The present members of the firm in London are Messrs. Thomas Norton Longman and George Longman (sons of Mr. Thomas Longman), and Messrs. Charles J. Longman and Hubert H. Longman (sons of Mr. William Longman), and Mr. W. E. Green.

## APPENDIX II

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FROM HANCOCK'S MASSACRE ORATION, MARCH,  
1774.

From the earliest recollections of youth, rejoiced  
by my fellow-men; and have considered it as  
the sacred duty of every member of society to pro-  
mote in him lies, the prosperity of every individual  
citizen, but more especially of the community to which  
he belongs, and also, as a faithful subject of the state, to  
use every possible endeavour to detect and defeat every traitor-  
ous design which its enemies may devise for its destruction.  
The duty of the persons and property of the governed, is

sent; and lest we should show some reluctance at parting with our property, their fleets and armies are sent to enforce their mad and tyrannical pretensions. The town of Boston, ever faithful to the British crown, has been invested by a British fleet; the troops of George the Third have crossed the Atlantic, not to engage an enemy, but to assist a band of traitors in trampling on the rights and liberties of his most loyal subjects; those rights and liberties which, as a father, he ought ever to regard, and as a king, he is bound, in honour, to defend from violation, even at the risk of his own life.

These troops, upon their first arrival, took possession of our senate house, pointed their cannon against the judgment hall, and even continued them there whilst the supreme court of the province was actually sitting to decide upon the lives and fortunes of the king's subjects.

Our streets nightly resounded with the noise of riot and debauchery; our peaceful citizens were hourly exposed to shameful insult, and often felt the effects of their violence and outrage.

But this was not all; as though they thought it not enough to violate our civil rights, they endeavoured to deprive us of the enjoyment of our religious privileges; to vitiate our morals, and thereby render us deserving of destruction. Hence the rude din of arms which broke in upon your solemn devotions in your temples, on that day hallowed by Heaven; and set apart by God himself for his peculiar worship. Hence, impious oaths and blasphemies, so often tortured your unaccustomed ear. Hence, all the arts which idleness and luxury could invent, were used, to betray our youth of one sex into extravagance and effeminacy, and of the other to infamy and ruin. And did they not succeed but too well? did not our infants almost learn to lisp out curses before they knew their horrid import? did not our youth forget they were Americans; and regardless of the admonitions of the wise and aged, copy with a servile imitation the frivolity and vices of their tyrants? and must I be compelled to acknowledge that even the noblest, fairest part of all the

Did not entirely escape the cursed snare? or  
seen an honest father clothed with shame, or  
our mother drowned in tears?

Dear, and come reluctantly to the transactions of  
night, when in such quick succession we felt the  
grief, astonishment, and rage; when heaven in  
that dreadful moment, suffered hell to take the reins;  
with his chosen band opened the sluices of New  
Blood, and sacrilegiously polluted our land with  
the blood of her guiltless sons.

And tale of death never be told without a tear; let  
the burning bosom cease to burn with a manly indigna-  
tion, relation of it through the long tracts of future  
time; every parent tell the shameful story to listening  
children; tears of pity glisten in their eyes, or boiling  
tears scorch their tender frames.

O designing knaves, murderers, parricides! how  
black upon the earth which has drunk the blood of  
innocence shed by your hands? how dare you

would desert from the Christian Cross, and fight under the Crescent of the Turkish Sultan; from such men as these, what has not a state to fear? with such as these, usurping Cæsar passed the Rubicon; with such as these, he humbled mighty Rome and forced the mistress of the world to own a master in a traitor. These are the men whom sceptred robbers now employ to frustrate the designs of God, and render vain the bounties which his gracious hand pours indiscriminately upon his creatures.

### APPENDIX III

---

proclamation for the annual Thanksgiving which blessing upon the king was issued in 1773, by Hutchinson, Esq., governor.

Hutchinson was recalled. Thomas Gage came to the appointment as royal governor of the excited province the year 1774. He issued repeated proclamations of a special nature, such as to dissolve the General Court, to rescind the "Solemn League and Covenant;" to "encourage industry and virtue;" to prevent the meeting of the Court; "and concerning the proceedings of the Progress."

Of these is appended the time-honored legend of

province, but throughout the continent, at this alarming crisis, it is resolved as the sense of this congress, that it is highly proper that a day of public Thanksgiving should be observed, etc. . . .

That God may be pleased to continue to us the blessings we enjoy, and remove the tokens of his displeasure by causing harmony and union to be restored between Great Britain and these colonies, that we may rejoice in the smiles of our sovereign, and in possession of those privileges which have been transmitted to us, and have the hopeful prospect that they shall be handed down entire to posterity under the Protestant succession of the illustrious house of Hanover."

*Done at Council Chamber in Cambridge this Twenty-Second day of October, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Four.*

JOHN HANCOCK,  
*President.*

The third Provincial Congress, when in session at Watertown, and busy in making arrangements for supplying the army, appointing and commissioning officers, issuing orders for paper currency, etc., paused to proclaim the annual Thanksgiving. In the midst of manifold burdens and distress they found something to be thankful for.

This proclamation concluded as follows:—

**And all Servile Labour is Forbidden on the Said Day.**

*Given under our hands at the Council Chamber in Watertown the Fourth Day of November in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-five.*

BY THEIR HONORS COMMAND,

Perez Morton, *Depty. Secry.*

JAMES OTIS,	JOSEPH PALMER,	JEDDIAH FOSTER,
CALEB CUSHING,	JABEZ FISHER,	EILDAD TAYLOR,
JOHN WHITCOMB,	BENJ'A. WHITE,	MICHAEL FARLEY,
JAMES PRESCOTT,	WALTER SPOONER,	SAMUEL HOLTON,
BENJ'A. LINCOLN,	JOSEPH GERRISON,	MOSES GILL.

**GOD save the PEOPLE.**

*Printed in the New England Chronicle or Essex Gazette from Thursday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, to Thursday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1775.*

*Printed by Samuel and Ebenezer Hall at their office in Stoughton Hall, Harvard College.*



The broadside reached the hands of the ministers, some were delighted, but to others it brought sorrow and disappointment. Some Loyalists in pulpits refused to read it; others read it, but added their sentiment in the time of prayer, "God save the king," despite the protests of the patriots.

Some saw the revolution! In 1773, "God save the king"; in 1774, still praying for "the smiles of their sovereign," but ominously omitting the traditional prayer for the king; in 1775, "God save the people!" The king was cast, and the bridges burned behind the patriots. Some boldly uttered this ringing cry for the people. The next year, 1776, bore this simple head-

## Proclamation *of* THANKSGIVING

as in 1775; but there was no concluding prayer attached to this extremely simple document.

In 1780 the Thanksgiving proclamation first presented the symbolic Indian in the coat-of-arms of the Commonwealth, now so familiar to all.

Commonwealth



of Massachusetts

By His EXCELLENCY

**JOHN HANCOCK, Esquire.**

Governour and Commander-in-chief in and over the Commonwealth of  
MASSACHUSETTS.

## A Proclamation,

For a DAY of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

The concluding part of this 1780 proclamation was as follows:—

*GIVEN at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, in BOSTON this Eight Day of November, in the year of our LORD, One Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty and in the Fifth Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the United States of AMERICA.*

**JOHN HANCOCK.**

*By his Excellency's Command,  
With the Advice and Consent of the Council,*

**JOHN AVERY, jun., Secretary.**

**GOD save the PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

It was not until 1785 that the proclamation as we know it in these days was evolved, and "God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts" first rang forth from the State House and the pulpits.

## APPENDIX IV

---

TANCOCK, the president, takes leave of the Congress :

GENTLEMEN : Friday last completed two years & five months since the honor of electing me to fill this chair. As I could not have myself your choice proceeded from any idea of my abilities, either from a partial opinion of my attachment to the liberties of America, I felt myself under the strongest obligations to discharge the duties of the office, and I accepted the appointment with the most resolute resolutions to go through the business annexed to it in the best manner I was able. Every argument conspired to deter me from deserting myself, and I endeavored by industry and attention to supply for every other deficiency.

## APPENDIX V

---

ON Oct. 25, 1780, John Hancock was inaugurated as the first governor under the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts. A committee of the House and Senate conducted his Excellency to the State House. They were preceded by the Independent Company. "The honorable members of both houses being assembled in the Council Chamber, his Excellency addressed them as follows—previous to his taking the oaths required of him, viz., —

*Honorable Gentlemen, —*

It would have ill become me at so early a moment after being notified of my appointment by the respectable committee of this honorable assembly, to appear here to comply with the qualifying requisitions of the Constitution, had not the circumstances of the returns made the choice a matter of public notoriety some weeks past, and receiving it from such authority as confirmed its reality, led me to contemplate the subject; and, although fully sensible of my inability to the important purposes of the appointment, yet having, in the early stage of this contest, determined to devote my whole time and services to be employed in my country's cause to the utter exclusion of all private business, even to the end of the war, and being ever ready to obey the call of my country, I venture to offer myself; ready to comply with the requisitions of the Constitution, and regularly and punctually attend to the duties of the department in which my country has been pleased to place me."

After the oath was taken, the Secretary declared his Excellency, John Hancock, Esq., Governor of this Commonwealth, from the balcony of the State House, repeated by the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk.

Condensed from report in *Independent Chronicle* of Nov. 4, 1780.

address of John Hancock as Governor of  
s, 1780:—

*of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representa-*

and warm heart I congratulate you and my country on  
of heaven in the peaceable and auspicious settlement  
nt upon a Constitution formed by the wisdom, and sancti-  
an choice of the people who are to live under it. May  
er of the world be pleased to establish and perpetuate these  
of liberty and glory.

If placed at the head of this Commonwealth by the free  
citizens, while I most sensibly feel the distinction they have  
me in this election, I am at a loss to express the sentiments  
which it has impressed me. In addition to my natural  
n, and the obligations they have before laid upon me, I  
and irresistible motive, ever to consider their happiness  
terest, and their freedom my highest honor.

essed with a sense of the important duties to which my  
ls me, while I obey the call, I most ardently wish my-  
these duties; but can only promise, in concurrence with  
a faithful and unremitting attention to them, supported  
advice and assistance of the Council happily provided by

we justly repose the highest confidence, has repeatedly stated to us the great disadvantages arising from it; and the necessity of an army engaged for the whole war, and well provided, is now universally felt and acknowledged. Nor should a moment of time be lost in prosecuting every measure for establishing an object so essential to the preservation of our liberties and all that is dear to us. Care at the same time ought to be taken that the necessary supplies be committed to men on whose principles and affection to our great cause, as well as capacity for such a service, we may safely depend.

The support of the public faith stands in close connection with this measure of defence, and, indeed, is absolutely necessary to it, and to the whole interest and honor of the State. No expedient should be unexplored, no necessary measure unattempted, no nerve in government or the community unexerted, to maintain our credit and remove all just ground of complaint from the army that protects us, or from those who have in any instances relied on the public engagements. What friend to his country would not cheerfully bear his full proportion of the expense necessary for this purpose? And I doubt not you will take all possible care that no more than such a proportion be laid upon any man or any class of men. This is not only a clear point of justice from which no government can in any instance recede without injuring and dishonoring itself, but is of particular importance to the internal peace and good temper, and consequently the safety, of the Commonwealth. Doth not this safety also require a stricter attention than I fear has been paid to the methods and purposes of an intercourse with Great Britain, and that more effectual measures may be taken to prevent flags of truce from conveying intelligence or improper persons to those who are prosecuting a war against us with great insidiousness as well as cruelty, to cut off a correspondence between our secret enemies at home and our declared ones abroad, and to restrain prisoners of war from being at large among us, without prudent checks, especially in our seaports. In all such cases, your vigilance will discern, and your fidelity provide where it may be needed, a proper guard to the public safety. The present situation of the eastern part of the State, and the protection of our seacoasts, navigation, and commerce, in all which not only the interest of this and the United States, but that of our allies, is deeply concerned, are important objects that require particular attention.

If we look to the westward, we see recent incursions and ravages of the enemy, so that from every quarter we are loudly called upon to employ the most speedy and strenuous efforts for providing funds that may be depended on, and establishing an army sufficient, by the blessing of Heaven, for the complete deliverance of our country. Its resources, improved with judgment and spirit, are adequate to such a purpose. Nor

to observe that we may enter upon this business immediately  
use and greater advantages than in any future time.

ly sensible, Gentlemen, that the separation which the Con-  
nate between the legislative and judicial powers, and that  
independence it has given to the latter, is one of the surest  
person, property, and liberties of the subjects of this Com-  
and accordingly you are, I am thoroughly persuaded, heartily  
pport this independence, and the honor and vigor, of the  
al department in its whole constitutional extent.

of the importance of Christian piety and virtue to the order  
s of a state, I cannot but earnestly commend to you every  
their support and encouragement that shall not infringe the  
cience, which I rejoice to see established by the Constitu-  
ad a basis ; and if anything can be further done on the same  
elief of the public teachers of religion and morality, an order  
y useful to their country, and who have particularly suf-  
efence of its rights by the depreciation of currency ; as also  
of widows and orphans, many of whom have been distressed  
ay, and who are particularly committed by Heaven to the  
civil rulers, I shall most readily concur with you in every

ervation of the Lord's Day is not only important to internal  
greatly conducive to the order and benefit of civil society.  
ne senses of mankind, and, by a solemn cessation from their

suppression of idleness, dissipation, extravagancy, and all those vices that are peculiarly inimical to free republics, and for the encouragement of those apposite virtues that are particularly friendly to such a form of government.

In such measures as I have now mentioned, and in every other tending to promote the public welfare, you may always depend on my cheerful concurrence with you, and giving every despatch in my power to the public business. And I shall from time to time seasonably communicate to you such informations and proposals of business as may be proper to lay before you.

May the new government diffuse a new animation through the whole political body; the people expect much from it, perhaps more in some points than circumstances will allow it to perform; but, standing as we do upon their choice and affections, and strenuously exerting ourselves as we ought for their interest, they may find it happily advanced.

May Heaven assist us to set out well, to brighten the auspices of our Constitution, to render it still more beloved and admired by the citizens of this Commonwealth, and to recommend it to the whole world by a wise and impartial, a firm and vigorous, administration of it.

JOHN HANCOCK.



## APPENDIX VI

---

effort to save the Hancock Mansion was in June, a roadside printed in red ink and in a most conspicuous form was posted.

### BOSTONIANS.

SAVE THE OLD JOHN HANCOCK MANSION!

IT IS TIME YET, ALTHOUGH THE WORK OF  
DEMOLITION HAS COMMENCED.

question of some perplexity to decide how far it is proper for the city government or for individuals to

sacrifice of public associations so dear and so noble as those that cluster around the Hancock House.

These purchasers must at any rate be prepared to hear during the whole of their lives, and that of their remotest posterity, so long as any of them may live in the elegant modern palaces which supplant the ancient structure, the frequent expression of public discontent.

Argument may show them blameless; but sentiment will ever condemn the proceeding in which theirs will be, perhaps the most innocent, but nevertheless the most permanent part. It is not often that an opportunity is given to men of wealth to earn a title to public gratitude, by an act of simple self-denial. Such an opportunity falls to the lot of the purchasers of this estate. Stay the destroying hand, and in less than one year the money can be raised by subscription, or an overwhelming vote be had from the city empowering the city fathers to purchase it.

There is patriotism and reverence for antiquity enough in Boston to save this house, only let it be waked up.

BOSTON, *June 6, 1863.*

(From copy in N. E. Historic Genealogical Society.)

While the effort to save this house did not avail, and must be forever an occasion for regret, it is gratifying that the Hancock house at Lexington has been saved, although removed from its original site.

## APPENDIX VII



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### BUSINESS ASSOCIATES NOT MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN THIS VOLUME

son senior and junior.	BLASDELL, HENRY.
JUN.	BLOSSOM, JAMES.
S.	BOWERMAN, STEPHEN.
	BOYLSTON, THOMAS. Eminent Boston merchant, Loyalist, died in London, 1798.
opposite Garden	BOYNTON, RICHARD.
	BRADFORD, J.
	BRADFORD, THOMAS.
	BRAGDON, JOHN.
nd Street.	BRAGDON, SAMUEL.
	BREWER, JOHN.
	BRIGHAM, EREN.
	BRIMMER, JOHN. Family seat in School Street.
church.	BROWN, ABIJAH.
	BROWN, WILLIAM.

- CONDON, SAMUEL.**  
**COWDRY, JOHN.**  
**CRAFTS, THOMAS.**  
**CRAFTS, WILLIAM.**  
 Colonel of artillery.  
**CROSS, THEODORE.**
- DAILEY, THOMAS.**  
**DAMOND, CAPTAIN GEORGE.**  
 Of Portsmouth.  
**DAVIS, JOHN.**  
**DAVIS, WILLIAM.**  
**DAVV, SOL.**  
**DAVES, MAJOR THOMAS.**  
 Architect of Brattle-street Church.  
**DEAN, MELATIAH.**  
**DECOSTER, SIMPLE.**  
**DENNIE, WILLIAM.**  
**DICKERSON, ORA.**  
**DICKEY, JAMES.**  
**DOANE, ISAAC.**  
**DOLIBAR, WILLIAM.**  
**DREW, JOSEPH.**  
**DURFEE, THOMAS.**  
**DUNHAM, SHUBEL.**  
**DUTTON, EBENEZER.**  
**EASTMAN, WILLIAM.**  
**EDES, THOMAS.**  
 A baker. Thomas Hutchinson found  
 refuge at his house from the mob.  
**ERVING, JOHN.**  
 One of the most eminent merchants of  
 America; grandfather of Hon. Rob-  
 ert C. Winthrop.  
**FESSENDEN, JOSIAH.**  
**FLAGG, GERSHOM, JUN.**  
**FLETCHER, SAMUEL.**  
**FOLGER, TIMOTHY.**  
**FRENCH, ISAAC.**
- GARDNER, JAMES.**  
**GARDNER, JOHN.**  
**GARDNER, SILVESTER, DR.**  
**GIBBS, JOHN.**  
 Master of ship Olive of Nantucket.  
**GILL, SAMUEL.**  
 Of firm of Edes & Gill.
- GOODING, SAMUEL.**  
**GORHAM, STURGIS.**  
 Built first house on south side of Pearl  
 Street.  
**GRAY, JOHN.**  
 Of ropewalk fame.  
**GRAY, LIEUT.**  
**GREEN, FRANCIS.**  
 Of Harvard College, prominent Tory.  
**GREEN, DARIUS.**  
**GREENOUGH, NEWMAN.**  
**GREENOUGH, SAMUEL.**  
**GREENWOOD, NATHANIEL.**  
 Captain of mast ship.  
**GRIDLEY, RICHARD.**  
 Engineer at Bunker Hill.  
**GROW, EDWARD.**
- HALL, JAMES.**  
 Commander of ship Dartmouth. Ban-  
 ished.  
**HALLOWELL, BENJAMIN.**  
 Commissioner of Customs. Tory.  
 Left in 1776.  
**HALLOWELL, ROBERT.**  
 Commissioner of Customs. Ordered  
 Hancock's sloop Liberty seized.  
 Banished. Returned, and died in  
 Maine, 1822.  
**HALLOWELL, ROBERT.**  
 Son of Benjamin.  
**HATCH, W.**  
**HAVEN, RHODES.**  
**HENDERSON, HENRY.**  
 Tax collector, 1770.  
**HENSHAW, JOSHUA.**  
 On committee to demand removal of  
 troops.  
**HEWES, SAMUEL.**  
 One of the 58 Boston merchants of  
 1760. Banished.  
**HICHBORNE, THOMAS.**  
**HIGGINS, SYLVESTER.**  
**HILL, ALEXANDER.**  
 Ancestor of Edward Everett.  
**HODSON, THOMAS.**  
 Owned land on Beacon Hill.  
**HOLLAND, JOHN.**  
**HOMER, WILLIAM.**  
**HOOD, JOSEPH.**  
**HOWARD, SAMUEL.**  
 Was a captain; his apprentice was John  
 Clark, wounded at the massacre.

- OSIAH.  
lived in Charter Street.
- VESTER.
- NDERSON.  
er connected with Bunker  
rominent in stamp trouble.
- DANIEL.  
of tea-party.
- SEPH.  
Charitable Society, Sun
- NA.
- EOGR.
- EL.  
oop Liberty, Nantucket.
- JOHN.  
the Columbia.
- LIAM.
- MAS.
- JOHN.
- JOHN, JUN.
- BENJAMIN, ESQ.  
n Revolution. First collec-  
ustoms of United States at
- MINOT, GEORGE.  
Had a warehouse in 1754 on Minot's  
T, a wharf on the northerly side of  
Long Wharf.
- MITCHELL, REBEKAH.
- MOORE, HUGH.  
Burnt out in 1760.
- MOORE, JOSEPH.
- MORE, WILLIAM.
- NELSON, ROBERT.
- NEWELL, JOHN.
- NOWELL, JOSEPH.
- NOWELL, SAMUEL.
- PADDOCK, ADING.  
Set out the Paddock Elms. Coach-  
builder. Violent Tory.
- Ading Paddock*
- PALFREY, WILLIAM.  
Property confiscated and sold in 1780.
- PARKER, DANIEL.
- PERKINS, DANIEL.
- PERKINS, JAMES.  
Boston merchant; gave Athe-  
naeum building.
- PICO, JOSIUA.
- Lincoln Fund*

- RAWSON, PAUL.**  
**REED, WILLIAM.**  
**RICHARDSON, JOHN.**  
**ROBINSON, JOHN.**  
 A Commissioner of Customs, who assaulted James Otis, Sept. 5, 1765, and caused a fatal injury to the brilliant young lawyer.
- ROBINS, JAMES.**  
**ROSS, WILLIAM.**  
**RUSSELL, BARNABAS.**  
**RUSSELL, JOSEPH.**  
 A director in Old U. S. Bank.
- RUSH, ENOCH.**
- SALTER, SAMPSON.**  
**SALTER, THOMAS.**  
**SAYWARD, JONATHAN.**  
 A business-man of 1760.
- SEARS, DAVID.**  
 Son of Daniel, opulent merchant in Boston; married Ann, daughter of John Winthrop, Esq. They were parents of Hon. David Sears.
- SELLON, JOHN.**  
**SELLON, SAMUEL.**  
**SEWELL, JOSEPH.**  
 Pastor of Old South Church, died June 27, 1769.
- SHARPS, GIBBINS.**  
**SHED, JOSEPH.**  
**SHERMAN, ABRAHAM.**  
**SIMPSON, JOHN.**  
**SHIRLEY, JOHN.**  
**SHIRLEY, MERRITABLE.**  
**SKELTON, SIMEON.**  
**SKILLIN, JOHN.**  
**SMITH, ELIPHALET.**  
**SMITH, HENRY.**  
**SNELINGS, JONATHAN.**  
**SNOW, JOSEPH, JUN.**  
**SPEAR, JOSEPH.**  
**SPRIGS, GEORGE.**  
**STUNBRIDGE, HENRY.**  
**STURGIS, THOMAS.**  
**STURGIS, SAMUEL.**  
**SWAIN, STEPHEN.**
- SYMMES, ANDREW, 3D.**  
 In patriot service, 1776.
- SYMMES, THOMAS,**
- THAYER, EBENEZER, JUN.**  
**THORNTON, TIMOTHY.**  
**TILESTON, REBECCA.**  
 Mother of "Master Johnny" (Porter).
- TILESTON, ONESIMUS (?).**  
**TILESTON, THOMAS.**  
 Admiral, 1771.
- TINKER, SILVANUS.**  
**TOWNSEND, ANDREW.**  
**TURNER, MARY.**  
 Wife of Thomas.
- TURNER, THOMAS.**  
**TYLER, EDWARD.**  
 Son of Moses.
- TYLER, MOSES.**
- VINSON, JONATHAN.**
- WATERHOUSE, SAMUEL.**  
**WALLEY, THOMAS.**  
 Active in non-importation, 1769.
- WALKER, THOMAS.**  
 A founder of Hollis-street Church.
- WALKER, JOHN.**  
 A founder of Hollis-street Church.
- WATERMAN, THOMAS.**  
 A founder of the Royal Arch Chapter, F. A. M.
- WELLS, SUSANNA.**  
**WENDELL, JACOB.**  
 Prominent man of Boston; Colonel of Boston Regiment, 1745.
- 
- WENDELL, OLIVER, 1772.**  
 Grandfather of O. W. Holmes.
- 
- WESTON, ELIPHAZ.**  
**WHEATLEY, NATHANIEL.**

PHIL.	WIMBLE, W.
EL.	WINTER, EDWARD.
ON.	WINTROP, ADAM.
	On committee to convey thanks of town to Peter Faneuil for market.
ncord, Mass.	WINTROP, ANDREW.
	WINSLOW, ISAAC, JUN.
ATHAN.	WINSLOW, JOSHUA.
ERT.	WINSOR, JONATHAN.
MAS.	

## BUSINESS FIRMS.

OWARD DAVIS.	SCOTT & GILL.
KES.	Nantucket.
NS, & BARNARD.	SILV. HUSKEY & Co.
STON.	Nantucket.
NG, 1771.	STEPHEN & EZEKIEL HALL.
HING & Co.	THOMAS D. & JOSEPH DAKIN.
R & Co.	THOMAS, MARKABLE, & HUNT.
TTLETON & Co.	WM. & MICHAEL HOMER.
& Co.	WHIPPLE & WHEATON.





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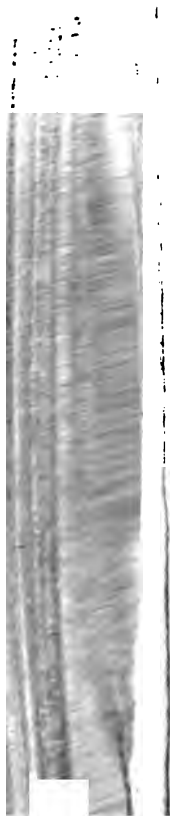
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